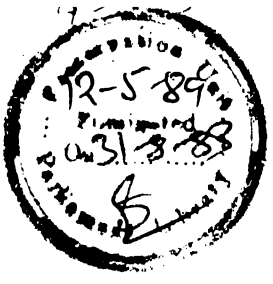


PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME IX, 1951

(7th August to 21st September, 1951)

Fourth Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

CONTENTS

Volume IX—From 7th August to 21st September, 1951.

	Columns
Tuesday, 7th August, 1951.—	
Member Sworn	1
Oral Answers to Questions	1—27
Written Answers to Questions	27—46
Wednesday, 8th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	47—73
Written Answers to Questions	73—92
Thursday, 9th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	93—125
Written Answers to Questions	125—154
Friday, 10th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	155—183
Written Answers to Questions	183—206
Monday, 13th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	207—235
Written Answers to Questions	235—258
Tuesday, 14th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	259—293
Written Answers to Questions	293—308
Thursday, 16th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	309—338
Written Answers to Questions	338—342
Friday, 17th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	343—372
Written Answers to Questions	372—388
Saturday, 18th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	389—420
Written Answers to Questions	420—428
Monday, 20th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	429—457
Written Answers to Questions	457—472
Tuesday, 21st August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	473—503
Written Answers to Questions	503—518
Wednesday, 22nd August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	519—545
Written Answers to Questions	545—566
Thursday, 23rd August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	567—595
Written Answers to Questions	595—612
Saturday, 25th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	613—641
Written Answers to Questions	641—652

	Columns
Monday, 27th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	653—684
Written Answers to Questions	684—702
Tuesday, 28th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	703—734
Written Answers to Questions	734—742
Wednesday, 29th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	743—774
Written Answers to Questions	775—786
Thursday, 30th August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	787—818
Written Answers to Questions	818—830
Friday, 31st August, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	831—870
Written Answers to Questions	870—876
Monday, 3rd September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	877—909
Written Answers to Questions	909—932
Tuesday, 4th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	933—967
Written Answers to Questions	967—986
Wednesday, 5th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	987—1014
Written Answers to Questions	1014—1036
Thursday, 6th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1037—1065
Written Answers to Questions	1065—1074
Friday, 7th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1075—1104
Written Answers to Questions	1104—1120
Monday, 10th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1121—1154
Written Answers to Questions	1154—1164
Tuesday, 11th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1165—1201
Written Answers to Questions	1201—1208
Wednesday, 12th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1209—1256
Written Answers to Questions	1256—1274
Friday, 14th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1275—1309
Written Answers to Questions	1309—1324
Saturday, 15th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1325—1355
Written Answers to Questions	1356—1364

	Columns
Monday, 17th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1365—1400
Statement by Deputy Minister of Defence in Connection with Starred Question No. 747 of 4th September, 1951 re Control Committee on Cantonments	1400—1401
Written Answers to Questions	1401—1414
Tuesday, 18th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1415—1445
Written Answers to Questions	1445—1470
Wednesday, 19th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1471—1500
Written Answers to Questions	1500—1512
Thursday, 20th September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1513—1543
Written Answers to Questions	1543—1548
Friday, 21st September, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1549—1580
Written Answers to Questions	1580—1594

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Thursday, 23rd August, 1951

The House met at Half Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

"HINDUSTAN HAMARA" PARTY

***460. Shri Sidhva:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have written a letter to the Pakistan Government objecting to the activities of the party known as "Hindustan Hamara" Party; and

(b) if so, whether any reply has been received from the Pakistan Government?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The attention of the Pakistan Government was drawn to this in a telegram sent in May last.

(b) No.

Shri Sidhva: Is it a fact, Sir, that this move is supported by newspapers which are considered to be the mouthpiece of the Pakistan Government, and also that they are doing propaganda?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It has been given a good deal of publicity by those newspapers. It is for hon. Members to draw any inference from that fact.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is the formation of 'Hindustan Hamara' party in Pakistan only a reaction to some of the statements and speeches made by the Hindu Mahasabha leaders that India and Pakistan should be united again?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a matter of opinion, but many people in Pakistan have said that this is a reply to that kind of statement from India.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: Has any reply been received from the Pakistan Government to the protest made by our Governmet?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I said 'No'.

Shri Kamath: Has Government any information as to whether any members of the Pakistan Government are members of this party?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir.

Shri Chattopadhyay: What are the principal activities of the party to which objection has been taken by India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When there are two countries in friendly relations with each other, one country does not encourage any agitation which might disrupt the other country. Apart from this fact, in the agreement of the 8th April 1950, it was specifically laid down that any such agitation should not be tolerated by either Government. In so far as that clause of the agreement is concerned, there has been repeated breach of it on the Indian side by the Hindu Mahasabha and on the Pakistan side by this group and other groups. In fact, even the objective laid down by one or two of the communal organisations in India is a breach of that agreement.

VISIT OF U. N. OFFICIALS

***461. Shri Sidhva:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. A. W. Cordier, Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Principal Director of the Department of Security Council Affairs arrived in New Delhi in the second week of June 1951; and

(b) if so, what was the purpose of their mission?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes.

(b) This was merely a courtesy visit as they were on a routine tour of United Nations' Missions.

Shri Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether Mr. Cordier had interviews also with the officials of the External Affairs Ministry, and if so, whether they were courtesy visits, or was any

official business discussed in regard to U.N.O. and other matters?

Dr. Keskar: Mr. Cordier certainly visited the officials of the External Affairs Ministry and also visited the Prime Minister. But as I said, he was on a routine visit, on behalf of the United Nations, in the course of which he visited many other countries afterwards.

Shri Sidhva: Did he discuss during this visit any matter relating to Kashmir?

Dr. Keskar: I am not at liberty to say what was discussed or what was not discussed. It was a routine visit.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is obviously—if I may say so—rather unusual to ask questions about what happened in private conversations. But in order to satisfy the hon. Member I might say that he did not discuss that question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Apart from that, how is it useful to know what took place in the course of conversations with officials of the External Affairs Ministry? Hon. Members before they put questions ought to find out whether it is in public interest to ask those questions: No. 2 what follows.

Shri Sidhva: If it was not in public interest then you should not have allowed my question. I sought an information and the answer is in the negative. So the matter ends.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not that—there are certain limits to it.

Shri Sidhva: If you allow it, it becomes a public question.

Shri Kamath: Was Mr. Cordier deputed here in pursuance of a resolution of the United Nations Assembly or Executive, or did he come on his own?

Dr. Keskar: As I said, he was on a routine visit to member nations of the United Nations in Asia. He visited many other countries in the Middle-East afterwards.

Deposits of non-Muslim Contractors in Punjab

*462. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the security deposits made by non-Muslim contractors in the Punjab before partition would be refunded to the original depositors?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 5.]

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any estimate has been made of the total amount of security deposits?

Shri A. P. Jain: No.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is said in the statement that the Deputy Rehabilitation Commissioners in Punjab (Pakistan) circulated all banks to send to them lists of security deposits lying with them and also to hand over the amounts. May I know what steps the Government of India propose to take in that behalf?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have lodged a protest.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I ask if the payments will be made on the basis of the present exchange or of the old exchange rate?

Shri A. P. Jain: That question would arise only when payments are made. They are not making any payments.

लाला अचिन्त राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कृपा कर के बतलायेंगे कि इन में ऐसे कितने डिपाज़िट हैं जिन के मुताल्लिक़ गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इंडिया तहक़ीक़ात कर रही है कि वे सही हैं ?

[**Lala Achint Ram:** Will the hon. Minister please state how many of the deposits are such about which verification is being made by the Government of India?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : पहले तो प्रश्न यह था कि पाकिस्तान से जो हमारा एग्रीमेण्ट हुआ था उस की पूर्ति हो । वह तो उस की पूर्ति ही नहीं कर रहा है । इसलिये क्लेम्स के तहक़ीक़ात करने का तो कोई सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता ।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** The question in the first instance was regarding the fulfilment of our agreement with Pakistan. They are not doing it. Hence the question of verification of claims does not arise at all.]

Return of Indians from Malaya

*463. **Shri Kamath:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports have been received that Indians in Malaya and

Singapore are selling or otherwise disposing of their properties, and are returning to India;

(b) if so, how many such cases have occurred during the last six months; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Kamath: In answer to a question the other day in this House about Indians disposing of property in Malaya, it was stated that there were some reports about Indians trying to dispose of their properties in Malaya. Is that correct, or the answer to this question is correct?

Shri Satish Chandra: Some reports have appeared in the Press, but they are largely baseless. There might be some individual cases of sale of property. There has been a boom in rubber and tin industry during the year and some people with speculative urge might be selling their property the value of which has considerably increased. But there has not been any large scale disposal of property by Indians in Malaya.

Shri Kamath: Has Government got any estimate about the total Indian population in Malaya before the war and today?

Shri Satish Chandra: I have not got the figures with me.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : अभी यह कहा गया कि अखबारों में इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ खबरें निकली थीं । इन खबरों के निकलने के बाद क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी ने हमारे प्रतिनिधि से, जो कि मलाया में हैं, इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ जानकारी प्राप्त की, और यदि प्राप्त की, तो क्या उन की इस सम्बन्ध में कोई रिपोर्ट आई ?

Seth Govind Das: It was stated just now that some reports appeared in the Press in this connection. May I know if, after the publication of these reports, the hon. Minister called for any information in this connection from our representative in Malaya and if so, was any report received from him on the matter?]

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : जी हां, हमारे जो प्रतिनिधि मलाया में हैं उन से पूरी रिपोर्ट इस विषय में मंगाई गयी और उन का कहना यही है कि इस तरह बड़े पैमाने पर लोगों ने न तो अपनी जायदाद को बेचा है और न वे वहां से आये हैं कुआला लम्पूर में एक सज्जन ने इस सम्बन्ध में एक बयान दिया जो अखबारों में भी छपा, परन्तु इस स्टेटमेण्ट के बाद कुछ दूसरे चैम्बर्स आफ़ कामर्स के अधिकारियों ने मलाया में ही इस बयान का प्रतिवाद किया है ।

[**Shri Satish Chandra:** Yes Sir, full information was called for from our representative in Malaya and he too says that there has not been any large scale sale of property or migration by Indians. A gentleman in Kuala Lumpur gave a statement in this connection which was also published in the papers but that statement has been contradicted by the officers of some Chambers of Commerce in Malaya itself.]

Shri Sivan Pillay: May I know whether there are any restrictions placed by the Government of Malaya regarding the amount of money that can be brought by Indians returning from Malaya?

Shri Satish Chandra: No, there is no restriction on remittances either on that side or on our side.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: May I know whether it is a fact that the Federal Government of Malaya is forcibly recruiting Indian boys of the age of about eighteen to fight the Communist bandits away in the jungles?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri Kamath: Has Government received any reports to the effect that the property of certain Indians in Malaya which was given to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for the purpose of the I.N.A. during the war was later on confiscated by the British Government and not returned to its owners?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That does not arise out of this question.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know whether the trade interests of the Indian community in Malaya were in any way affected by the Communist activities in that country?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nor does that arise out of this question.

INDIAN-OWNED INDUSTRIES IN PAKISTAN

*464. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills and other industrial units in **Pakistan**

which are either completely or partially owned by Indians;

(b) the names of Indians whose capital is invested therein;

(c) the total amount of capital invested; and

(d) how much thereof has been invested since 15th August, 1947?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) to (d). The Information is not readily available.

Shri Kamath: Is at least partial information available?

Shri Mahtab: As much as could be gathered from the newspaper reports.

Shri Kamath: What is that?

Shri Mahtab: For instance, the Acharya Prafulla Chandra Cotton Mills, Khulna, the Bagerhat Cooperative Weaving Union Ltd., Bagerhat, the Dhakeswari Cotton Mills Ltd., Dacca, the Luxmi Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Dacca, Mohini Mills Ltd., Kushtia, the Lyallpur Cotton Mills, Lyallpur, Mela Ram Cotton Mills, Lahore, the Punjab Textile Mills Ltd., Lahore, the Sutlej Cotton Mills Ltd., Okara.

Shri Kamath: Have any restrictions been placed recently on the transfer or flight of Indian capital from here to Pakistan and, if so, since what date?

Shri Mahtab: That I am not aware of—whether any restriction has been placed on Indian capital going to Pakistan. The question might be addressed to the Finance Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister is not aware of it.

Shri Kamath: Were any of these concerns mentioned by the Minister started in Pakistan after August 15, 1947?

Shri Mahtab: Long before partition.

Shri Kamath: None after partition?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No information.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that the hon. Minister some time ago made a statement that some Indian capitalists were going to start textile mills in Pakistan and, if so, may I know whether any such mill has been started or any such enterprise has taken place?

Shri Mahtab: No such statement was ever made by me. It appeared in the newspaper that the Lyallpur Cotton Mill was being extended and the Minister of Industries there, of Pakistan, opened the extension. That was the newspaper report.

Shri T. N. Singh: Besides the press reports to which the hon. Minister has referred, does he not know of certain instances where either wholly the industries are owned by Indian capital or in partnership with others in Pakistan? May I know what are the facts about this situation?

Shri Mahtab: As hon. Members are well aware, partition is a recent affair and just before partition India was one, and there are concerns in India which are owned by Indians and Pakistanis. Similarly there are concerns in Pakistan which are owned by Pakistanis and Indians, or by Indians alone. Here also there are concerns which are owned by Pakistanis alone.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether one of the biggest industrialists in India has been given special facilities in respect of certain industries in Pakistan and whether that industrialist in India has transferred about Rs. 7 lakhs to Pakistan after 1947?

Shri Mahtab: So far as I am aware, no Indian capital has gone to Pakistan. It is the capital which has been formed there out of the industries existing.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that as recently as last year a sugar factory was started in Mardan in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan by one Ishwar Das Sahney?

Shri Mahtab: I am not aware of it.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if any Indian industrialists who have industries in Pakistan have complained to Government about the treatment they receive at the hands of the Pakistan Government?

Shri Mahtab: No such complaints have been made.

Buildings Constructed During War Time

***465. Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of **Works, Production and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the durability of all buildings constructed during war time such as the Constitution House, consistently with the absolute safety of residents has been determined at any time or whether this is being done;

(b) whether any dates have been fixed on which such structures will be pulled down;

(c) whether there has been any mishap so far; and

(d) how the cost of maintenance compares with the present book value and rent received?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) All buildings constructed during the war are inspected by the Divisional officers of the Central Public Works Department every year in order to test their durability.

(b) No. In view of the acute shortage of accommodation, it is not proposed to pull down any building unless it is considered to be unsafe.

(c) No mishap of any serious nature has occurred. Cases of falling plaster or stone slabs in a few buildings have, however, occurred but no one has been injured and in such cases remedial measures were taken.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Dr. Deshmukh: Has the Government so far been required to pull down any building because of its being unsafe?

Shri Buragohain: So far none have been pulled down, Sir.

Shri Sivan Pillay: May I know whether at the time of constructing the building of the Constitution House its life was limited to a certain number of years and whether that period is over now?

Shri Buragohain: It is a fact, because the programmed life for these war-time constructions is usually three years. But since then annual repairs have been made in order to strengthen these buildings.

Shri Lakshmanan: Is it a fact that the maintenance cost of the Constitution House is increasing year after year?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): That is so.

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know whether the recent decision of the Government to raise the rent of the rooms in the Constitution House has any basis on this increase of maintenance charges?

Shri Buragohain: The rent has not yet been raised. The matter is now being examined by the House Committee.

Shri Kamath: Has Government received any reports that so far as the Constitution House is concerned, certain parts of the Constitution House building, in certain corners especially, collapsed during the last monsoon? Has Government taken any definite steps to have this building inspected at definite intervals and, if so, at what intervals?

Shri Buragohain: In regard to inspection I might inform the House that regular routine inspections are made by the Sectional Officers every month, not only of war-time constructions but even of permanent buildings. The Sub-Divisional Officers inspect the government buildings every four months, and the Executive Engineer inspects them once every year, and they have to record remarks which are forwarded to the Superintending Engineer and eventually to the Chief Engineer in important cases.

With regard to the Constitution House, some arches and walls cracked during the last monsoon and one arch actually collapsed. Cracks have also appeared in the walls and arches of other temporary structures, but remedial measures have been taken.

Shri Kamath: Is the Inspector instructed to go inside the rooms and see whether any beams have already started sagging?

Shri Buragohain: I think the Inspectors are expected to do that.

Lala Achint Ram: Is it a fact that certain buildings in Deolali camp belonging to the Defence Department were demolished this year?

Shri Buragohain: I think this hardly arises out of this question, Sir. I do not know what particular building he has in mind. I would like to have notice.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may table a separate question.

Dr. Deshmukh: With regard to part (b) of the question the hon. Minister replied that he was going to collect the information and then supply it. Does he not know the cost of maintenance in any particular instance, for instance in the Constitution House? What is the percentage of the maintenance cost as compared to the book value?

Shri Buragohain: I have got the figures of the cost of construction and also the cost of maintenance. But I have not got the figures of rent which are being worked out. If he wants I can give those figures. The capital cost of war-time constructions comes to Rs. 7,00,88,824, and the annual expenditure on maintenance comes to Rs. 18,82,520, which works out to about 2·7 per cent. of the capital cost.

As regards the Constitution House—I have not got separate figures but I have got the figures for 2,980 officers' quarters which include the Constitution House, the Nursing College and servants' quarters. The figures are Rs. 20,71,336 capital cost, and the expenditure on maintenance is Rs. 65,169 for all these 2,980 quarters.

Seth Govind Das: How much do the Government get as rent from these structures?

Shri Buragohain: That information is being collected.

Shri Kamath: What, Sir, is the number of cracks that must appear in a building before it can be condemned?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Gadgil: As soon as the safety margin is crossed, the building is pulled down.

Shri Kamath: The margin has not been crossed?

Shri Gadgil: There are many cracks...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Many cracks are not noticed.

Shri Kamath: That is the difficulty, Sir.

DISTRIBUTION OF SALT

*466. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of **Works, Production and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government suggested to all State Governments in May or June 1951 to take over the distribution of salt;

(b) if so, what are the replies received from various States; and

(c) what is the system to be adopted for this purpose?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes; in April 1951.

(b) and (c). Practically all the State Governments are of the view that State trading in salt would involve considerable difficulties and would not be practicable at present. Government have therefore decided to accept their advice and to drop the proposal for the present.

Shri Kshudiram Mahata: Sir, by the removal of the tax on salt, the price of salt has not decreased appreciably. May I know whether Government have decided to take any steps to reduce the price of salt?

Shri Gadgil: The answer to the first part of the question has been given very often that as a result of the abolition of salt tax, the Treasury has lost round about Rs. 11 crores. As regards the expected benefit to the consumers, it has not been realized. Therefore this idea of requesting the various States to take over the distribution and to make good some loss was suggested. But as I have stated in the reply, most of the State Governments are not willing to do anything at present. Therefore the question has been postponed for the present

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी को यह बात मालूम है कि अभी भी नमक का वितरण इतना दोषपूर्ण है कि कई स्थानों पर अनेक बार नमक नहीं मिलता है और खास कर बरसात के मौसम में यह दिक्कत बहुत महसूस होती है और नमक की क़ीमत बहुत बढ़ जाती है, उसके सम्बन्ध में गवर्नमेण्ट क्या करने वाली है ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the distribution of salt is still so defective that many times salt is not available at a number of places, the difficulty becoming acute in the rainy season particularly when the prices go very high? What steps are the Government taking in this direction?]

श्री गाडगिल : नमक का वितरण इतना दोषपूर्ण तो नहीं है जितना आपने बतलाया है, कई जगह दोष है, लेकिन इस की वजह यह है कि उसके लिये पूरी वैगन्स् की तादाद नहीं मिलती है और उन के न मिलने का कारण यह है कि बम्बई में जो फूड आ रहा है उस को सब जगह पहुंचाना पड़ता है और जनता उस को जल्द से जल्द लेना चाहती है ।

[**Shri Gadgil:** The distribution of salt is not so defective as has been stated by the hon. Member. There are faults at certain places the reason being that sufficient number of wagons are not available for salt because foodgrains being imported at Bombay have got to be sent to various places and the people are anxious to receive it as soon as possible.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या यह आशा की जा सकती है कि कुछ दिनों के बाद जब यह वैगनों की दिक्कत हट जायगी, तब नमक का वितरण ठीक प्रकार से हो सकेगा ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Can one hope for better distribution of salt after some time when the difficulty about wagons is no longer there?]

श्री गाडगिल: हमेशा आशा करना ठीक ही होता है ।

[**Shri Gadgil:** It is best always to hope.]

Shri Ghule: In view of the reply given to part (a) should we take it that the present nominee system is to be continued?

Shri Gadgil: The present nominee system is available in certain States and not in all States. These States do not want to make any change for the present. The result is that it continues.

Shri Ghule: How is it distributed in the States where there is no nominee system?

Shri Gadgil: The system is that anybody can place an indent with Government factories or with private producers and the only limitation is the price control.

Sardar Sochet Singh: What is the system for the procurement and distribution of salt from Pakistan, which is selling at Rs. 2 a seer at present?

Shri Gadgil: No Pakistan salt is allowed to be imported. Therefore the latter part of the question does not arise.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have the Government any idea of doing away at least with this nominee system which has been condemned by the Salt Advisory Committee as well as by the Estimates Committee?

Shri Gadgil: It is precisely because that it was not approved by the Salt Advisory Committee, that the matter was taken up with the State Governments. After all, any scheme that the Central Government may evolve has got to be implemented and worked out by the Provinces or the States.

Shri Shiv Charan Lal: Is it a fact that the production of salt is more than sufficient for the country's requirements but due to the shortage of wagons and the difficulties in the transport system the prices vary very much and in some places the supply falls so short that the people find it very difficult to get salt?

Shri Gadgil: The position is that we have more than sufficient salt and if during some short period the shortage is experienced, it is precisely due to the cause which has been referred to by the hon. Member. In such contingencies, it is not unlikely that prices go up but as soon as the supply is made available, prices come down.

Shri R. Velayudhan: In view of the difficulties expressed by the State Governments regarding State trading and the statements of the Ministers that there is an excess quantity of salt in the country, is there any proposal for decontrolling of salt, in which the Minister is a firm believer?

Shri Gadgil: There is no question of decontrol. There is no shortage of quantity. Control is absolutely necessary where the production is less than demand but here the production is adequate but owing to some difficulties in short term, namely of adequate wagon supply such things happen and in order to prevent that as far as possible, some adjustments in the zones is under consideration and also some suggestions are being made to the State Governments that even in working the nominee system, they should see that the nominees do not under-indent with a view to create artificial scarcities.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have the Government any idea of removing these wagon difficulties?

Shri Gadgil: The idea can be better expressed by my hon. colleague on my left.

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): Sir, one of the difficulties of transport of salt is that when the wagons are available, they do not want to move salt; they want to move only at their own convenience and they do not want to create stocks or dumps.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is not the shortage due to the nominee system?

Shri Sidhva: May I know if the shortage is due to the district nominee system which induces the merchants to place orders at their pleasure for the purpose of creating scarcity and increase in price and whether the Salt Advisory Committee have unanimously more than once decided to abolish this district monopoly? May I know what other alternative the Government intend to take to allow the free movement of salt and not allow the district nominees to create a chaos, and who are taking advantage of this monopoly?

Shri Gadgil: I have already stated that we took the matter up with the State Governments and tried to do our best. But they do not like this idea of doing away with the nominee system; I will have to persuade them further, but for the present, they do not say that they are against it but they only want to say that this particular time is not the best.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I ask the hon. Minister of the reason which has

led to the prohibition of import of salt from Pakistan? Is it a fact that the States have expressed a desire to import it at Rs. 2-8-0 or Rs. 3 a maund and it is being sold at Rs. 70 or 80 a maund?

Shri Gadgil: The simple reason is that we have enough salt and there is no necessity to import.

Shri Shiv Charan Lal: In view of the reply given by the hon. Minister that there is sufficient supply of salt and that there is sufficient supply of wagons also for the purpose of transporting salt, are we to take it that all these difficulties are because of the nominee system and that if free trade is allowed, it will adjust by itself and the position will be eased?

Shri Gadgil: I have again to repeat that all aspects of this question were considered and the advice tendered by the Salt Advisory Committee was also taken into consideration and the result was that we approached the various State Governments. After all the House will realize that any policy that we may lay down will have to be given effect through the State Governments and when some of them definitely say that this is not the proper time, I agree with them to some extent. This question is not closed and as I have stated, it will be taken up a few months hence.

DISPLACED PERSONS WHO RETURNED FROM BIHAR AND ORISSA

*467. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state how many of the displaced persons who have come back from Orissa and Bihar

(i) have been rehabilitated in West Bengal; and

(ii) have gone back to East Pakistan and have finally settled there up to the 30th June, 1951?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): It is presumed that the hon. Member is referring to displaced persons who left camps and rehabilitation centres in Orissa and Bihar. On this presumption, the information desired is as follows:

(i) 4,846 up to the 10th July, 1951;

(ii) 63 displaced persons returned to East Bengal with Government assistance. It is not known whether they have finally settled in East Pakistan. Government have no information in respect of the others.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the reasons for not being rehabilitated in those provinces as put forward by the displaced persons and the State Governments differ and if so, what are they?

Shri A. P. Jain: The bulk of the desertions has taken place from camps. The question of rehabilitation in regard to persons who have deserted the camps does not arise. Some, comparatively fewer, have deserted from the rehabilitation centres. Of course, we have investigated into the cases. Causes which we consider account for desertions are not the same as the causes given by the displaced persons.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How many of those displaced persons who have returned back are still residing at the Howrah and Sealdah stations?

Shri A. P. Jain: I cannot vouchsafe for the information.. So far as I have information, none of these persons who have returned from either Bihar or Orissa are on any of the Railway stations.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that most of these refugees who have returned from the Bihar camps were in the camps for over a year or almost about a year without any attempt at rehabilitation being made?

Shri A. P. Jain: Attempts at rehabilitation were made; but it is also a fact that those who were in the camps had been there for a year or over a year.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is there any scheme before the Government to revise the rehabilitation schemes of all these refugees in Bihar?

Shri A. P. Jain: Rehabilitation schemes are being re-adjusted from time to time according to the difficulties that come to our notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that the hon. Minister went to Bihar some time ago and asked the Bihar Government to revise the schemes of rehabilitation there?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is one of the steps that are being taken.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think he himself went there and had discussions with the Bihar Government. I want to know what was the result of those discussions?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have not gone to Bihar for almost a year. The Rehabilitation Minister of Bihar came to Calcutta to see me and I discussed the schemes with him. As a result of those discussions, some schemes were modified.

लाला अचित राम: क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कृपा कर के यह बतलायेंगे कि अभी जो नये रेफ्यूजीज ईस्ट बंगाल से आ रहे हैं, उन को बिहार और उड़ीसा में बसाने के लिये क्या सरकार कोई प्रबन्ध कर रही है ?

[**Lala Achint Ram:** Will the hon. Minister please state whether the Government are taking any steps to rehabilitate refugees coming of late from East Bengal, in Bihar and Orissa?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन: मैं कल कलकत्ते जा रहा हूं, जैसे हालात होंगे, उस के मुताबिक़ काम करेंगे ।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** I am going to Calcutta tomorrow and steps would be taken according to the conditions found there.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only Bihar and Orissa. Does this arise?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: How many of the displaced persons who came back from Bihar and Orissa are in Howrah Station awaiting rehabilitation? When will they be rehabilitated and how long will they have to stay in the Railway station?

Shri A. P. Jain: None according to my information at present.

Shri Chattopadhyay: What is the total number of displaced people that were sent to Bihar? How many have come away and how many are still living in camps?

Shri A. P. Jain: 26,170 displaced persons were sent to Bihar from West Bengal. Of these 3682 deserted up to 26th June 1951. I am giving the figures from memory: at present, there would be about 7,000 persons in the camps.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

KASHMIR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

***468. Shri Kesava Rao:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Security Council has asked the Government of India not to set up a Constituent Assembly in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what is India's reply to the Security Council?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). No such request has been received from the Security Council by the Government of India. The hon. Member presumably has in mind the statement in the preamble to the Security Council Resolution on Kashmir dated the 30th March, 1951, which says "that the convening of a Constituent Assembly as recommended by the General Council of the All Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and any action that Assembly might attempt to take to determine the future shape and affiliation of the entire State or any part thereof would not constitute a disposition of the State in accordance with the above principle". It means there is freedom for disposition according to plebiscite later on. In the course of the discussion of the Resolution, as also a subsequent discussion in the Security Council on a complaint addressed to the Council by the Government of Pakistan the position of the Government of India was fully explained. For convenient reference, I place, on the Table of the House, relevant extracts from the speeches made by our representative. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 6.]

Briefly, the Government of India's position is that the Constituent Assembly for Kashmir is not intended to prejudice the issue before the Security Council or to come in its way.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether during the discussions with the UNO representative Dr. Graham, the question of the cancellations of the elections to the Kashmir Constituent Assembly has come up?

Dr. Keskar: Is it relevant? This has nothing to do.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know if the Government of India have made their position clear to the UNO that the setting up of the Constituent Assembly in Kashmir does not in any way conflict with or prejudice the plebiscite that has been agreed upon both by India and Pakistan in Kashmir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is exactly what has been answered.

Dr. Keskar: The hon. Member has not listened to what I was saying. That was exactly what I said.

Sardar Sochet Singh: Is there any article in the Charter of the UNO which could prevent a sovereign Government from framing its own Constitution?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister is not aware of any such thing.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that certain agencies both here and outside, specially in Pakistan, have been propagating that the Security Council is trying to bring its influence to bear upon the Government of India to see

that the Constituent Assembly in Kashmir does not actually function? In view of the Resolution which the hon. Minister just now quoted, is it not desirable that a categorical statement is made on this subject in this House?

Dr. Keskar: I do not see any necessity.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a question; it is a speech and a suggestion.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I ask the hon. Minister to tell us whether it is a fact that the Government of India has given an assurance that the decision of the Constituent Assembly will not be binding on the Government of India and will not prejudice the holding of a plebiscite?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): My hon. colleague read out a part of the reply that the Government of India gave on that occasion and has placed on the Table of the House certain speeches, etc. We are clear. The question that the hon. Member has asked, I am not quite sure

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That the decision of the Constituent Assembly of Kashmir is not binding on the Government of India.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India, legally speaking, is in certain relationship with the Government of Kashmir, that is, in regard to Defence, Foreign Affairs and Communications. Any decision in regard to these matters, naturally, is the concern of the Government of India. In regard to any other matter, the Government of Kashmir is autonomous.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact that the Constituent Assembly of Kashmir has been convened or is going to be convened in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is so, and if I may say so, in complete accordance with the Government of India's views on the subject.

लाला अचित राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कृपा कर के बतलायेंगे कि उन की काश्मीर गवर्नमेण्ट के साथ इस विषय पर कोई खतोकिताबत हुई है कि जिन रेफ्यूजीज़ को जम्मू, काश्मीर म बसाना है, उन को जल्दी बसाया जाय ताकि वह कांस्टीटुएण्ट असेम्बली के चुनाव में हिस्सा ले सकें और अपने वोट देने के हक़ से वंचित न रहें, या उन शरणार्थियों को जो योल कैम्प में हैं उन को काश्मीर में दाम्सफ़र किया जाय और वहां बसाया जाय, क्या इस सम्बन्ध में काश्मीर गवर्नमेंट से कोई खतोकिताबत हुई है ?

[**Lala Achint Ram:** Will the hon. Minister please state whether Government had any correspondence with the Kashmir Government on the subject of an early resettlement of refugees who are to be re-settled in Jammu and Kashmir so that they may take part in the elections to the Constituent Assembly and may not be deprived of their right to vote or on the question of transferring and rehabilitating those refugees in Kashmir who are at present in the Yole Camp?]

डा० केसकर : उन से कोई खतोकिताबत इस सम्बन्ध में नहीं हुई है ।

[**Dr. Keskar:** There has been no correspondence with them on this matter.]

लाला अचित राम : क्या कोई खतोकिताबत इस मामले में माननीय मन्त्री करेंगे ?

[**Lala Achint Ram:** Does the hon. Minister propose to have any such correspondence now?]

डा० केसकर : मैं समझता हूं कि काफ़ी देर हो गई और इस मामले में खतोकिताबत करने से कुछ होने वाला नहीं है ।

[**Dr. Keskar:** I think it is rather late and that nothing would come out of it.]

Machine Tools

***469. Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:** Will the Minister of **Works, Production and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) how many machine tools were purchased by Government for (i) the Railways; (ii) the Military; (iii) Industries and (iv) the Agriculture Department; and

(b) how many of them are of Indian manufacture and how many of foreign manufacture?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) and (b). I place on the Table of the House a statement in three parts, showing:

(1) the value of contracts for machine tools purchased by Government for (i) Railways, (ii) Defence (iii) Industries and (iv) Agriculture Departments;

(2) break up of the total value of contracts for machine tools of indigenous manufacture and of foreign manufacture for all departments: and

(3) the value of contracts for machine tools placed by the India Store Department, London, and the India Supply Mission, Washington, during the financial years 1949-50 and 1950-51. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 7.]

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: What is the value of these tools separately under the categories (1), (2) and (3)?

Shri Gadgil: It is given in the statement. The total for the year 1949-1950 which includes both the indigenous manufacture and the quantity imported comes to Rs. 1,06,53,677, and for the year 1950-1951 it is Rs. 1,20,74,110.

Shri R. Velayudhan: Is the hon. Minister aware that the Railways have purchased machine tools worth crores of rupees when there were stores worth 140 crores lying here, according to the Shroff Committee's report?

Shri Gadgil: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has answered that for 1949-50. The quantity purchased cost only about Rs. 1·06 crores and that includes purchases by the Railways, the Defence and other departments. And how can the Railways alone purchase machine tools worth crores of rupees?

Shri R. Velayudhan: I mean the purchase of machine tools, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, the figures given were those of machine tools.

Shri Shiva Rao: With reference to part (b) of the question, it was stated that machine tools of foreign manufacture are ordered either through the India Store Department, London, or the India Supply Mission, Washington. Is any over-riding commission paid by either of these bodies to agencies for the purchase of these tools of foreign manufacture?

Shri Gadgil: As far as I know, all these orders are placed by the two bodies, namely, the India Store Department, London and the India Supply Mission, Washington by calling for tenders and allotting it to the lowest tenderer. I do not think there is any agent intervening between these two bodies and the suppliers. But I shall make enquiries.

Shri Shiva Rao: May I know whether the result of the enquiry will be made available to the Members of the House?

Shri Gadgil: If the enquiry results in anything, it shall be given to the House.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that the Defence Department according to practice, can place orders direct, without recourse to the India Supply Mission?

Shri Gadgil: The normal procedure is for orders to be placed through the India Supply Mission or the India Stores Department. But in certain exceptional cases they have departed from the normal procedure.

Shri T. N. Singh: Has there been any case of any special commission being paid in such cases where a departure has been made from the normal practice?

Shri Gadgil: Where special orders have been placed and a departure made from the normal procedure, naturally I cannot be aware of it.

Shri R. Velayudhan: When an order is placed by a Ministry for the purchase of certain machine tools or materials, does that Ministry look into and examine the list of articles that are already available in stock?

Shri Gadgil: Orders are placed by the indenting Ministry after taking into consideration the stock of any particular commodity that the Ministry has in store and after coming to a decision, they come to this Ministry and place orders.

YARN (EXPORT)

***470. Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what quantity of yarn has been earmarked for export to foreign countries in 1951?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): The following quantity of cotton yarn will be allowed for export during 1951 under the Trade Agreements:

Pakistan—7,500 bales.

Indonesia—320 bales.

Ceylon—3,250 bales.

China—5,000 bales.

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: What was the quantity of yarn exported in the year 1950?

Shri Mahtab: The total quantity of yarn exported was 2,11,740 bales.

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: What is the total production of yarn in 1950?

Shri Mahtab: The figure is not available with me here now, but some time back I gave it in a note to the House.

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: Is the hon. Minister aware of the slogan in the country—"Yarn, yarn everywhere, Not a yard of cloth to wear".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. But what is the question?

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: In view of this slogan, I want to know from the hon. Minister why such enormous quantities of yarn are being exported to foreign countries, when there is dire shortage of cloth in the country?

Shri Mahtab: The export was made last year, and as the hon. Member is aware, it has been banned this year. The export of only 16,000 bales has been allowed throughout the year under the trade agreement.

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know what are the varieties of yarn that are included in this export?

Shri Mahtab: All varieties—coarse, medium, fine etc.

सेठ गोविन्द दास: जो सूत इस साल बाहर भेजा जाने वाला है वह गत वर्ष से कितना कम है और क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी को यह बात मालूम है कि खासकर हैंडलूम इण्डस्ट्री को यहां सूत नहीं मिलता है। ऐसी हालत में जिस सूत का उपयोग हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री में किया जा रहा है क्या उसका बाहर भेजा जाना बन्द किया जायेगा ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** By how much is the quantity of yarn to be exported this year less than that which was exported last year? Does the hon. Minister know that the handloom industry in particular is not getting enough yarn and may I know whether export of yarn which is being used in the handloom industry would be stopped under the circumstances?]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has answered it already, when he said that last year it was 2 lakhs and odd bales and this year it is 16,000 bales.

Shri Mahtab: Last year the export was 2,11,740 bales and this year the export of 16,000 bales has been allowed under the trade agreements with China and other countries, which means that we also import something essential from these countries and in exchange we are exporting this quantity of yarn to them.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : तो क्या यह आशा की जा सकती है कि इस साल जब सूत इतना कम बाहर भेजा जा रहा है तो जितना सूत गत वर्ष हैंडलूम इण्डस्ट्री को मिला था, उससे इस वर्ष बहुत अधिक मिल सकेगा ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Since yarn is being exported in such a small quantity, may we hope that the handloom industry would get much more this year than what it got last year?]

Shri Mahtab: There is no doubt about it. The handloom industry will get more than double what they got last year.

Shri Ghule: What is the quantity of yarn that has already been exported and what remains to be exported? And is there any time-table for the export of this yarn?

Shri Mahtab: Nothing has been exported yet. We are waiting for the production here. We will first see that the needs of the industry are met and then the export will be made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall go to the next question now.

Shri Hussain Imam: But Sir...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, I am sorry. We go to the next question. After all the export is only 16,000 bales for the whole year.

Shri Mahtab: Sir, if you have no objection, questions Nos. 471 and 478 may be taken up together as they relate to the same subject.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very well.

Extra Depreciation Allowance to Tatas and the Scob

***471. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned extra depreciation allowances to the Tatas and the Scob; and

(b) if so, the amount and the purpose?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Tatas have been sanctioned Rs. 100 lakhs net for essential replacements and improvements of their plant which are considered necessary to stabilize production at the existing level.

(ii) Scob have been sanctioned Rs. 14·48 lakhs net for small improvements and for balancing of their plant which are considered necessary to step up production to the rated capacity.

RETENTION PRICES OF IRON AND STEEL

*478. **Shri Alexander:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the incidence of Iron and Steel prices as a result of the recent report of the Tariff Board regarding the retention prices payable to manufacturers;

(b) whether there was any undertaking on the part of the manufacturers to increase the output of Steel and Iron; and

(c) whether exemptions are made in the case of quotas of steel and iron allotted to agriculturists or to manufacturers of agricultural implements?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) The increase in the retention prices payable to Tatas and Scob has not affected the selling prices of the various categories of iron and steel for the consumers except in the case of galvanised sheets, galvanised wires and tin plates. In the case of these excepted categories, the increase in selling price comes to Rs. 100, Rs. 60 and Rs. 150 per ton, respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: At what rate per ton has depreciation been allowed to Tatas and SCOB?

Shri Mahtab: I am sorry the figures are not available with me. As I have said the selling prices have been kept at the same level except in the case of galvanised sheets, galvanised wires and tin plates. With regard to the rest the selling price remains the same. The retention prices vary from item to item.

Shri A. C. Guha: What will be the total revenue earned by these two companies due to the increase in retention prices?

Shri Mahtab: Rs. 100 lakhs in the case of the Tatas and 14·48 lakhs in the case of SCOB.

Shri A. C. Guha: That is only for depreciation. What is the total increase in revenue for these two companies due to the rise in retention prices?

Shri Mahtab: This increase has been allowed to them in order to enable them to replace their machinery and make improvements in their plant. Accordingly the retention prices have been raised.

Shri A. C. Guha: Are we to understand that the increase in retention prices will only come to 100 and 14 lakhs respectively?

Shri Mahtab: That is correct.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I know whether there has been any directive that no part of this increase would be paid to shareholders in the shape of additional profit and to labour in the shape of additional bonus?

Shri Mahtab: That is correct. This has been allowed for the express purpose of replacement of machinery and improvement of plants.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not true that a certain portion of the increased revenue due to the increase in retention prices will be taken by these two companies as part of their own net profits?

Shri Mahtab: That is not correct. The whole question was examined by the Tariff Board with the assistance of a technical adviser and the Tariff Board reported that this amount has to be given to them for replacement of machinery and improvement of their plants, so that the production may be kept at the existing level.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether any account was taken about the increased cost of production per ton?

Shri Mahtab: All these were taken into account by the Tariff Board.

PAKISTAN RAIDS ACROSS "CEASE-FIRE LINE"

*474. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Pakistan Government on India's protests regarding raids made by Pakistanis across cease-fire line in Kashmir; and

(b) the total number of casualties and total loss of property which resulted from the raids?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) When a raid takes place the general practice is to report the incident to the Chief United Nations Observer. The Pakistan Government have also been kept fully informed of these violations, mostly through their Army Headquarters or the United Nations observers. We do not know what action the Pakistan Government takes on India's protests regarding these raids, but in some cases, through the intervention of the United Nations Observers or following protests to Pakistan, persons abducted during the raids have been released.

From January 1, 1951 to July 15, 1951.

(b) (i) *Indian Defence Personnel*:

Killed—4 Other ranks.

Wounded—11 Other ranks.

All these casualties occurred in June, 1951.

(ii) *Jammu and Kashmir State Servants*:

One Jammu and Kashmir Policeman was taken prisoner, but later released.

Two Jammu and Kashmir Policemen sustained slight injuries.

(iii) *Civilians*:

1 civilian was killed. 11 civilians were abducted, of whom 10 were later released. The Chief Military Observer is trying to get the 11th civilian released.

(iv) *Loss of property*:

Cash besides Ornaments and household goods worth Rs. 4,320 were looted.

Sheep/Goats—231.

Heads of Cattle—30.

Mare—1.

Shri Ghule: May I know whether the Government of India has received any complaints from the U.N.O. observers about the violation of the cease-fire line on our part?

Dr. Keskar: I am not sure of any specific complaints but there have been once or twice protests, which have been inquired into in due course.

Shri Ghule: Are Government aware that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan some days ago made a statement that the nationals or the military personnel of India violated the cease-fire line more than hundred times?

Dr. Keskar: I have seen the statement: it is not possible for me to say whether it is an after-thought or a real protest.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I will go a step further. There have been hundreds of protests alleged on both sides about the violation of the cease-fire line. A great number of these protests are, if I may say so, rather trivial, that is in the sense that they related to petty thefts of cattle, etc. by people of one side or the other. But the really serious thing is the question of organised raids. These are relatively few. I cannot for the moment think of any such particular incident having been complained of by the Pakistan Government, although there have been hundreds of protests about petty thefts or this or that incident across the border line. I cannot for the moment remember of any organised raid as having been committed by us, whereas there are a number of incidents alleged by us and committed by the Pakistan forces or encouraged by them across the border.

Shri Kamath: As regards the U.N. observers, has the Minister got any information as to how many of these observers are permanently stationed on our side of the cease-fire line how many on the other side and how many are moving about to and fro and along the cease-fire line?

Dr. Keskar: I would require notice for that.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: About 30, I think: half and half. They shift their headquarters every six months: for six months on this side of the cease-fire line and for six months on the other.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : जहां तक इन रेड्स का सवाल है, माननीय मन्त्री जी ने यह तो बतलाया कि इतने आदमी मरे, इतने जख्मी हुये, इतनी जायदाद का नुक्सान हुआ, पर जहां तक रेड्स के नम्बर का सवाल है, वहां तक क्या कोई इस बात का भी लेखा रक्खा जाता है कि इतनी बार रेड्स हुई। दूसरी बात जो माननीय मन्त्री ने कही वह यह कि इस सम्बन्ध में पाकिस्तान क्या करता है यह मुझे नहीं मालूम । लेकिन एइस सम्बन्ध में जो प्रोटेस्ट इण्डिया गवर्नमेस्ट की वहां गई है उनका कोई उत्तर पाकिस्तान से प्राप्त हुआ ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** So far as the raids are concerned, the hon. Minister told us that so many persons were killed and injured and so much property was lost but may I know if any record is maintained as to the number of raids that take place? The hon. Minister then stated that he did not know what action the Pakistan Government took in that connection but have they received any reply from Pakistan with regard to the protests lodged by the Government of India?]

डा० केसकर : जैसा मैं ने अपने जवाब में कहा, कोई उत्तर हमें उनकी तरफ से मिला नहीं है और कई बार यहां सवालात के जवाब में बताया गया है कि फलां फलां महीने में कितनी रेड्स हुई । इसका रेकार्ड

हैं । अगर आनरेबल मेम्बर चाहेंगे तो वह उनके सामने रक्खा जा सकेगा ।

[**Dr. Keskar:** As I said in my answer, no reply has been received from them. It has many times been stated here in reply to questions as to how many raids have taken place in the various months. There is a record maintained for that and if the hon. Member, wishes, it can be placed before him.]

HOSPITAL IN KODARMA MICA AREA

*475. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the construction of the Hospital for labour in the Kodarma Mica area; and

(b) the expenditure so far incurred?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Lands for the Hospital buildings and staff quarters have been acquired and detailed plans and estimates have been finalised. Arrangements for the supply of bricks, etc., have also been made. Work for the construction of the buildings will be taken up very shortly

(b) About Rs. 43,000.

Shri Jnani Ram: *rose—*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question-hour is over.

Some Hon. Members: There is still one minute more.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Who is to decide when it is over...

An Hon. Member: Now it is over:

Shri Gadgil: Even the clock is abiding by your ruling.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I must be allowed to judge by my own eyes. The Question-hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

RETRENCHED OFFICERS

*472. **Shri S. N. Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of retrenched officers registered with the Central Co-ordination Office so far; and

(b) how many have been provided with jobs through this office up to this time?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) 121 retrenched Class I, Class II and Commissioned Officers of the Government of India had been registered up to 31st July 1951.

(b) It is too early to say. No results had been reported by the U.P.S.C. up to 31st July 1951.

MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

*473. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications by the aged displaced persons for monthly maintenance allowances received up to date;

(b) the number disposed of so far and the number still awaiting decision;

(c) the maximum allowed to any individual under the present scheme; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to enhance this allowance?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). As the maintenance Allowance Scheme caters for displaced persons who are aged, infirm, widows, unattached women and minors, no separate figures are available for "aged" displaced persons only.

(c) Maximum amount is Rs. 100 P.M.

(d) As the scales of Maintenance Allowance have been revised only recently, Government have no intention to revise them further.

KOSI PROJECT

*476. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to Bihar he made a statement that all priority would be given to Kosi Project;

(b) whether the matter has been taken up by the Planning Commission in the light of the aforesaid statement; and

(c) the period by which the work is to be completed?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). The Prime Minister was greatly impressed by the necessity of proceeding with the Kosi project. In view of the magnitude of the project and also because various preliminary enquiries in connection with the high dam etc., had not been concluded, there was no possibility of undertaking the entire scheme. Different parts of the scheme were then examined separately and it was found that they could be separated, each part yielding some result. The Prime Minister recommended that the first part might be accepted and steps taken to begin it.

The project involves the co-operation of the Nepal and Bihar Governments. The Bihar Government have been pressing for another river valley project (the Gandak) also. The Planning Commission made it clear that they could not, at this stage, even consider two such projects at a time.

The matter is being examined from various aspects and the Planning Commission is giving it full consideration.

CLOTH AND YARN TO TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*477. **Shri Alexander:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Travancore-Cochin Government complained of the acute shortage of cloth and yarn in the State and if so, what steps are taken to relieve the same;

(b) what was the quantity asked for and what was the quantity allotted;

(c) whether any mill has opened fair price shops in the State and if so, which are the mills; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the State has asked for a fixed quota of yarn to manufacture exportable handloom varieties and if so, what reply was given?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). The Travancore-Cochin Government complained about shortage of cloth. As overall supply of cloth to the State has increased, no special steps are considered necessary except for making increased releases of mulls and gada cloth in the quota, as requested by the State.

The State also asked for an allotment of 200 bales of yarn in 2/20s counts in June 1951 against which 120 bales were released in addition to the normal quota. Again at the end of July 1951 the State asked for additional allocations, over and above their quota, of 500 bales of 2/20s and 100 bales of cone yarn in counts 20s-26s. In view of the overall shortage of yarn, it has not been possible to allocate to the State yarn in excess of their share of the available supplies, as it will have to be at the expense of other States.

(c) Yes, Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills and Shri Chitra Mills.

(d) No.

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

*479. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give any protection to the handloom industry in the country; if so, what and when;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have directed that supply of yarn to handloom industries be made not through the State but District authorities; and

(c) whether there has been any exceptions to this rule and if so, why?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Adequate protection has already been given to the handloom industry by reserving certain fields of production of textiles exclusively for it.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME

*480. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to extend the Industrial Housing Scheme to Part B and some of the Part C States where it was not in operation;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of capital required; and

(c) what is the target fixed in each of these States?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) Under the provisional scheme—which is still not the final scheme—two-third of the capital cost of the houses will be provided by the Centre as interest free loans and one-third by the State Governments concerned or employers sponsored by them as loans on 3 per cent. interest. The Government of India have earmarked a sum of Rs. 1·68 crores to be advanced in the current financial year for the implementation of the Scheme.

(c) The sum of Rs. 1·68 crores referred to in part (b) is proposed to be allocated to the various State Governments in the following manner:

Assam—10 lakhs.
Hyderabad—20 lakhs.
Mysore—20 lakhs.
Madras—9 lakhs.
Punjab—5 lakhs.
Madhya Pradesh—10 lakhs.
Orissa—10 lakhs.
Travancore-Cochin—10 lakhs
Delhi—1 lakh.
Bombay—73 lakhs.

The number of houses to be constructed in each State cannot be indicated at present as that will depend on the cost of buildings, cost of land etc. in the different areas.

JAPANESE PEACE TREATY CONFERENCE

*481. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether India has received intimation of the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference to be held in San Francisco in September this year?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Yes.

EXTENSION OF RAJPURA TOWNSHIP

*482. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land recently acquired by Government for extension of Rajpura Township; and

(b) the likely date by which the said area will be actually utilised for the purpose of extension?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 1727 acres.

(b) 985 acres have already been put under town construction operations this year and the balance of 742 acres is expected to be put under use in not distant time.

RAJPURA TOWNSHIP

*483. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajpura Township (PEPSU) is exclusively meant for the rehabilitation of displaced persons from Bahawalpur; and

(b) whether it is a fact that displaced persons other than those from Bahawalpur are denied treatment and admission in the Hospital provided for the said Rajpura Township?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

BANK EMPLOYEES' STRIKE

*484. **Shri Amolakh Chand:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bank Employees Federation is planning a general strike of all Bank Employees in India from the 27th August, 1951;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to publicise the correct facts in regard to this?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). The All India Bank Employees' Association has informed Government that employees in banks in the country will go on strike if the Association's demands for the maintenance of *status quo* in accordance with the invalidated award of the Banks Tribunal in respect of pay scale, allowances, working hours, overtime allowance and medical aid are not conceded. For this purpose the validation of the invalidated award by a legislation is demanded by the Association. Government have no information whether the Association is taking any steps to sturt a strike.

(c) Government have since referred the dispute in banking companies for adjudication to a three-member Industrial Tribunal. The setting up of the Tribunal has been announced in the Press. Banks have also been requested to display the order in every branch so that bank employees may know that their dispute with the bank management is being adjudicated upon by a Tribunal.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EVACUEE ORPHANS

*485. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure on account of contributions made to the various States for grant of financial assistance to the Indian evacuee orphans from Burma and Malaya upto 1950-51;

(b) the contributions that have been made to various State Governments during the current year giving the number of orphans receiving assistance from each of them;

(c) the total number of orphans to whom assistance has been given under this scheme; and

(d) how long this scheme will have to be continued?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Rs. 2,18,878.

(b) The information is as follows:

State	No. of orphans	Contribution by Government of India
		Rs.
Madras	159	26,300
West Bengal	9	2,500
Uttar Pradesh	38	6,200
Punjab	5	500
Bihar	3	500
Orissa	12	800
Mysore	8	2,000
	234	38,800

(c) 656.

(d) The Scheme which was formulated for the long-term maintenance of refugee orphans will continue at least till they attain majority.

RAJENDRA HIGH SCHOOL IN SINDRI

*486. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Production and Supply** be pleased to state whether there is Rajendra High School in Sindri for the education of the children of workers in Sindri Project?

(b) What is the total number of pupils in the school?

(c) What is the income and expenditure?

(d) Is it a fact that ex-Minister Dr. Mukerjee made a donation for this school and also Shri Mahtab strongly recommended support to the School?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes, Sir. The school caters for the educational needs of the children and wards of the Fertilizer Project employees as well as the residents of the villages around Sindri.

(b) Near about 550.

(c) The monthly income is Rs. 2,055 made up of:

(*i*) Tuition fees	Rs.	505
(*ii*) Grant-in-aid from the Government of India.	Rs.	1,500
(*iii*) Grant-in-aid from Dhanbad Local Board.	Rs.	50
	Rs.	2,055

The monthly expenditure is Rs. 2,700.

(d) Government have no information about Dr. Mukerjee's donation to the School. My hon. colleague Shri Hare Krushna Mahatab has recommended support to the School.

TRADE WITH HARD CURRENCY AREAS

*487. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the total value in terms of dollar of Indian exports to and imports from hard currency areas with effect from the date on which the Indian rupee was devalued?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): The total value of Indian exports including re-exports to hard currency areas from October 1949 to May 1951 was 554·3 million dollars and the total value of imports from hard currency areas during the same period was 486·5 million dollars.

INSTALLATION OF STEEL PLANTS

*488. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether Government have finally given up the idea of installing the two Iron and Steel Plants in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa?

(b) Was this matter passed on to the Planning Commission for its consideration?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) No, Sir.

(b) This matter has also been considered by the Planning Commission.

ढोरों की आंतें (निर्यात)

*४८९. **श्री खापर्डे:** (क) क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारत से गत तीन वर्षों में गाय, बैल तथा भैंसों की आंतें तथा भेड़ एवं बकरियों की तांतें कुल कितनी मात्रा में निर्यात की गईं ?

(ख) क्या विदेशों को निर्यात की जाने वाली इन आंतों तथा तांतों से तैयार माल बन कर यहां आता है ?

(ग) क्या क्या माल इन से बन कर भारत में आता है तथा यहां उस का क्या उपयोग किया जाता है ?

(घ) उक्त माल का कुल परिव्यय क्या है ?

(ङ) क्या भारत में ऐसे माल के निर्माण का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है ?

(च) यदि हां, तो कब तक ऐसा माल निर्माण होने लगेगा ?

ENTRAILS OF CATTLE (EXPORT)

[*489. **Shri Khaparde:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the quantity of entrails of cows, bullocks and buffaloes and guts of sheep and goats that were exported to foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) whether these entrails and guts that are exported to foreign countries are received back in the form of finished goods;

(c) what are those finished goods that are received back in India and what use is made of them here;

(d) what is the total cost thereof;

(e) whether efforts are being made

to prepare those finished goods in India; and

(f) if so, by what time it would be possible to do so?]

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) It is not possible to indicate the quantity of these exports, as these articles are not specified in the foreign trade returns.

(b) to (f). The required information is not readily available. Efforts are being made to collect it.

Postal Savings Accounts in Pakistan

*490. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state whether it has been decided to grant, pending settlement with Pakistan, any interim relief to displaced persons who had Postal Savings Accounts in Pakistan?

(b) If so, what relief is proposed to be given to such persons?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Displaced persons who had applied for the transfer of their Post Office Savings Bank Account up to 31st March, 1949, but have not been able to secure the transfer are eligible for grant of interim relief. This relief will be available to persons who had arrived in India from Pakistan by the 30th September, 1948 and who are in indigent circumstances and have no other means of livelihood.

2. The relief will be given for a period of six months or till the person is able to get his dues from Pakistan whichever occurs earlier. The following are the scales of relief:

(i) Where the deposit is less than Rs. 1,000, Rs. 75 per month or half the deposit spread over in six monthly instalments whichever is less.

(ii) Where the deposit is Rs. 1,000 or more, Rs. 100 per month.

मलाया में गिरफ़्तार भारतीय

*४९१ सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या प्रधान मन्त्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) इस वर्ष मलाया में कितने भारतीयों को आतंकवादी कार्यवाहियों को संदेह में गिरफ़्तार किया गया है; तथा

(ख) क्या इन में से कुछ भारतीयों को मृत्यु दण्ड भी दिया गया है ?

Indians arrested in Malaya

[*491. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians arrested this year in Malaya on suspicion of their complicity in terroristic activities; and

(b) whether some of them have also been sentenced to death?]

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) 91 Indians were arrested during the first half of the present year.

(b) One Indian has been sentenced to death.

Capital Goods from Britain

*492. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the capital goods imports from Britain during the first half of 1951; and

(b) the general trend of exports to Britain during the current year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) A statement giving details of capital goods imported into India from Britain during the first half year of 1951 is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix III, annexure No. 8.]

(b) Exports from India to Britain during the current year show an increase on the corresponding period last year.

German Tools and Machines

*493. **Shri Sohan Lal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to my Starred Question No. 4820 asked on the 4th June, 1951 regarding German tools and machines and state whether the tools and machines have been purchased in parts or a whole machinery has been purchased; and if in parts whether they can be used in any factory in India?

(b) Do Government propose to sell or transfer these tools and machines to any private firm or will they be used by Government in their own factories?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) As far as is known no German tools and machines have been bought at the Hannover Industrial Exhibition on Government account. Government have no informa-

tion on private orders placed by Indian business visitors to the Exhibition.

(b) Does not arise.

CALCUTTA TEA AUCTIONS

*494. **Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India has lost about Rs. 25 lakhs worth of foreign exchange at the tea auctions held in Calcutta during the second week of July, 1951?

(b) Is there any truth that no buyers were forthcoming for internal auctions?

(c) If so, what were the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Indian tea for export, worth about Rs. 25 lakhs, was withdrawn from the Calcutta Tea Auctions early in second week of July 1951; but there is no reason why the withdrawn tea should not be subsequently sold.

(b) Yes, Sir, there were no bidders for leaf grades and brokens offered at the Calcutta auctions of the 9th July, 1951.

(c) It was because of convictions in two cases, under the Calcutta Municipal Act, on the ground that the tea was adulterated with stalks.

TEA CHESTS (IMPORT)

*495. **Shri Venkataraman:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been made by the Tea Producers for the issue of licences for the import of six lakhs of Tea chests; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Licences against these six lakh chests are being issued as and when the importers produce evidence to show that they have placed orders on indigenous manufacturers for their share of the four million tea chests to be purchased in India during 1951.

CLOTH PRICES IN BOMBAY

*496. **Shri Ganamukhi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cloth market has registered a considerable fall in Bombay State;

(b) whether super-fine and fine cloth are quoted at ten to fifteen per cent below *ex*-mill prices;

(c) whether medium and coarse varieties of cloth also have undergone a corresponding fall in prices; and

(d) if the answers to parts (a) to (c) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reports have been received that some categories of fine and superfine cloth are being sold below ex-mill prices.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As the prices of fine and superfine cloth manufactured from foreign cottons are comparatively high with the general improvement in cloth supply there is less demand in the market for such cloth. The prices of fine and superfine cloth have, therefore, registered fall. There is, however, good demands for coarse and medium cloth and there has been no such fall in prices.

PROFIT MARGIN ON CLOTH PRICES

*497. **Shri Ganamukhi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cloth Merchants Association of Coimbatore and others have urged the necessity of increasing the profit margin on the sale of cloth from 14 to 20 per cent.;

(b) whether the Civil Supplies Ministers of States have decided in their Conference to recommend the same to the Government of India;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) whether the above said merchants have also pleaded for inclusion of representatives of cloth trade on the Cotton and Cloth Advisory Committees appointed by Government?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Civil Supplies Ministers decided not to increase the profit margin from 14 to 20 per cent.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

SALT MONOPOLY

*498. **Shri Bivani:** Will the Minister of **Works, Production and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Salt Advisory Committee has recommended the abolition of salt monopoly;

(b) whether Government have accepted these recommendations; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in that direction?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) to (c). Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the abolition of the district nominee system. Taking into consideration the unanimous views of the State Governments concerned, the Government of India have decided not to abolish this system for the present.

ARREST OF AN ASSISTANT CONTROLLER OF EXPORTS

93. Shri Kamath: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to his answer to my starred question No. 4217 asked on 17th May 1951 regarding the arrest of an Assistant Controller of Exports at Bombay and to state what stage the investigation by the police has reached?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): Police investigation into the case has since been completed and the report on the case is now under consideration.

DACCA HOME

94. Shri A. C. Guha: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the answers given to the supplementary question raised on starred question No. 26 asked on the 7th August, 1951, regarding the conditions of Dacca Home and state:

(a) whether Government propose to give a statement of the nature of complaints received about Dacca Home;

(b) whether it is a fact that the girls housed there are accessible to unhealthy outside influence; and

(c) whether the locality in which the Home is situated is unsuitable?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) to (c). Complaints were received by the Government of India from time to time to the effect that:

(i) the locality of Dacca Home was unsuitable; and

(ii) the Home was in charge of a lady Superintendent who did not stay there throughout the day and night and who, being the wife of a subordinate Government servant, was unable to stand up against any abuse of her staff who were alleged to allow abductors and their friends easy access to the inmates.

The Pakistan Government's attention having been drawn to these, they replied that the house and the locality were suitable and that the management was satisfactory. They further pointed out that the selection of the existing lady Superintendent, who was resident in the Home day and night and had the full complement of necessary staff under her constant personal supervision, had been made after attempts to make a selection by advertising the post had failed.

HOUSE-BUILDING LOANS TO STATES

95. Shri Kesava Rao: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any States have applied to the Government of India for loans for their housing schemes;

(b) what is the amount given on loan to these States, State-wise; and

(c) what is the number of houses to be built with this loan?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The Industrial Housing Scheme of the Central Government is in operation since 1950-51. For the year 1950-51, a sum of Rs. one crore was available for distribution as loan to State Governments and the Governments of Bombay, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar asked for loans. For the year 1951-52, a sum of Rs. 1.68 crores has been provided for and the following State Governments have applied for loans:

Madras, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Orissa, Bombay, Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin and Delhi.

(b) In 1950-51, Bombay got Rs. 75 lakhs, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh Rs. 10 lakhs each and Bihar 5 lakhs. It is proposed to distribute Rs. 1·68 crores provided for in this year's budget in the following manner:

Madras	9 lakhs.
Punjab	5 lakhs.
Madhya Pradesh	10 lakhs.
Assam	10 lakhs.
Orissa	10 lakhs.
Bombay	73 lakhs.
Hyderabad	20 lakhs.
Mysore	20 lakhs.
Travancore-Cochin	10 lakhs.
Delhi	1 lakh.
	1·68 crores.

(c) The number of houses which can be built with this loan depends, among others, on the cost of building-materials, land, the amount of money which State Governments or employers sponsored by them can provide. 1,712 houses have been constructed in Bombay State, 169 houses in Orissa,

400 houses in Madhya Pradesh and 85 houses in Bihar, are nearing completion.

HAND-LOOM CLOTH PRODUCED IN MADRAS

96. Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what was the approximate production of handloom cloth in the State of Madras, during the years 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950, respectively?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): The approximate production of handloom cloth in the State of Madras during the years 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950 is given below:

Years	In Million yards
1947	383·83
1948	*104·42 (Jan-April'48)
1949	497·29
1950	339·97

*Since cotton yarn was decontrolled information regarding the approximate consumption of yarn after April, 1948 is not available, and hence production cannot be estimated.

EVACUEE PROPERTY

97. Shri Raj Kanwar: Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of "evacuees" and "intending evacuees" declared under the "Administration of Evacuee Property Act";

(b) the brief particulars or details of "pool" of evacuee property so far registered;

(c) (i) the total number of applications received for exemptions under Section 52 of the Act, and (ii) the number of exemptions granted by the Government of India, with the approximate value of property involved in each case;

(d) whether in any such case the Government of India passed orders while the matter was *sub judice* and if so, for what reasons; and

(e) the number of certificates, if any, granted by Government under Section 16 of the Act?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Information is not available and the amount of time and labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the result achieved

(b) The property consists of houses, shops, land and factory premises. As the number of these properties is very large, it is not possible to give any more particulars.

(c) (i) The required information is not available and the amount of time and labour involved in its collection will not be commensurate with the results achieved.

(ii) Only in two cases has exemption been granted by Government. Shri Mohd. Ismail Japanwala and Shri Feroze-Ud-Din Japanwala have been exempted from the operation of the provisions of Chapter IV of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, which deals with intending evacuees. As the property of "intending evacuees" is not taken over by the Custodian, it is not possible for Government to know the approximate value of property in these cases.

(d) No.

(e) Certificates of restoration are granted under this section generally in cases where it is proved to the satisfaction of Government that the person concerned never left India for Pakistan. Apart from the Meos of Gurgaon, Alwar and Bharatpur, the Gaddis of Bharatpur, and the Muslims of Buria, whose property was restored under general orders, the Central Government has given certificates only in 23 cases.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR (STAFF)

98. Prof. K. T. Shah: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of (i) Gazetted, and (ii) non-Gazetted officers, clerks and Class IV servants in the Ministry and its attached and subordinate offices on:

(i) 15th August, 1947; (ii) 31st March, 1948; (iii) 31st March, 1949; (iv) 31st March, 1950; and (v) 31st March, 1951; and

(b) the number of officers, clerks and Class IV servants appointed temporarily in the first instance and subsequently (i) made permanent, (ii) retired or (iii) retrenched, during each of the years 1947-48 (post-Partition), 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

LEAD PENCILS

100. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what are the total re-

quirements of lead pencils of all kinds per year?

(b) What is the actual annual production in the country?

(c) What quantity was reported as having been imported in the years 1948, 1949, and 1950 from foreign countries?

(d) What was the licence quota for import of pencils in 1950 and what is the quota at present?

(e) Have any associations demanded that the quota be increased to meet the requirements and reduce prices?

(f) Do Government intend to increase the import quota for lead pencils during the current year?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 500,000 gross (Estimated).

(b)

Year	Production
1949	48,606 gross.
1950	110,936 gross.
1951	250,000 gross (estimated.)

(c)

Year	Quantity
1948	243,362 gross.
1949	38,008 gross.
1950	24,372 gross.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Bombay Stationers Association has represented for an increase in the licensing quota of lead pencils.

(f) No, Sir, as there is sufficient productive capacity in the country and as the production is steadily on the increase, the Government have, at present, no intention to increase the import quota.

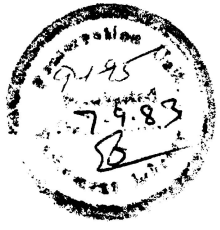
Statement.

January-June, 1950—No import was allowed.

July-December, 1950—20 per cent. of half of best year's imports for import of artists pencils from soft currency areas only.

January-June 1951—10 per cent. of half of best year's imports.

July-December, 1950—20 per cent. of 1951 licences have been doubled to meet the requirements for July-December, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME XIV, 1951

(6th August, 1951 to 29th August, 1951)

Fourth Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

CONTENTS

Volume XIV.—6th August, 1951 to 29th August, 1951

	Columns
MONDAY, 6th August, 1951—	
President's Address to Parliament	1—28
TUESDAY, 7TH August, 1951—	
Motions for Adjournment—	
Exorbitant rise in the price of cloth	29
Civil Defence of India against invasion by Pakistan	29—31
Papers laid on the Table—	
President's Assent to Bills	31
Report of the India Delegation to the Twelfth Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council	31—32
President's Proclamation assuming to himself all functions of the Government of Punjab	32
Expenditure incurred on Medical Treatment in India and abroad of Ministers	32
Toofan Express Accident	32
Ordinances promulgated after the termination of the Third Session of Parliament 1950-51	32
Essential Services (Prevention of Strikes) Bill—Introduced	33
Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	33
Parliament Prevention of Disqualification Bill—Further consideration of clauses—Postponed	33—79
Assam (Alteration of Boundaries) Bill—Discussion on m tion to consider—Not concluded	80—100
WEDNESDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Business of the House—	
Hours of Sitting	101
Papers laid on the Table—	
Expenditure from the Aviation Share of the Petrol Tax Fund	102
Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	102
Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill—Introduced	102—03
Assam (Alteration of Boundaries) Bill—Passed, as amended	103—62
Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Bill—Discussion on motion to consider—Not concluded	162—90
THURSDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Papers laid on the Table—	
Notifications under Section 2C of Insurance Act, 1938	191
Amendments to Cinematograph (Censorship) Rules, 1951	191
Notification in accordance with Section 4A of Indian Tariff Act, 1934	192
Appropriation Accounts—Defence Services, 1948-49 : Audit Report, Defence Services, 1950 ; Commercial Appendix to Appropriation Accounts, Defence Services, 1948-49 ; Appropriation Accounts—Railways, 1948-49 (Parts I and II) ; Railway Audit Report, 1950 ; Balance Sheets of Railway Collieries and Statements of all-in cost of coal etc. for 1948-49; and Capital Statements, Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts of Govt. Railways, 1948-49.	192—93
Resolution *re* President's Proclamation on Failure of Constitutional Machinery in Punjab—Adopted	193—255
Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Bill—Further Consideration postponed	255—60

	Columns
THURSDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 1951—*Contd.*	
Business of the House—	
Change in Hours of Sitting	260—62
Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill—Passed, as amended	262—67
Opium and Revenue Laws (Extension of Application) Amendment Bill—Passed, as amended	267—71
Sea Customs and the Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill—Passed	271—73
Resolution *re* Convention for Suppression of Traffic in persons and exploitation of Prostitution—Further discussion postponed	273—78
Notaries Bill—Motion to consider moved	278—80
FRIDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Death of Shri Narayana Murthi	281
Motions for Adjournment—	
Dalkhowachar and Salapara Islands	281—83
Alleged election arrangement between Food Minister, U. P., and Sugar Industrialists	283—84
State Financial Corporations Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	284
Tariff Commission Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	284
Forward Contracts (Regulation) Bill—Extension of time for presentation of report of Select Committee	284—85
Delhi Premises (Requisition and Eviction) Amendment Bill—Extension of time for presentation of Report of Select Committee	285—93
Go-Samvardhan Bill—Extension of time for presentation of Report of Select Committee	293—94
Motion on Address by the President—Discussion not concluded	294—329
Papers laid on the Table—	330—72.
Correspondence between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan	329
SATURDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Presentation of the Report of the Committee on the Conduct of a Member	373
Motion on Address by the President	373—500
MONDAY, 13TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Papers laid on the Table—	
Statement *re* Railway Stores Enquiry Committee	503
Resolution *re* raising of export duty on groundnuts and levy of export duty on oilseeds and vegetable oils not otherwise specified—Adopted	504—43
Evacuee Interest (Separation) Bill—Introduced	543
Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill—Discussion on motion to consider—Not concluded	544—90
TUESDAY, 14TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Message from the President	591
Business of the House	591—92
Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill—Discussion on motion to consider—Not concluded	593—706
THURSDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Indian Explosives (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	707—08
Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill—Further consideration postponed	708—10
Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	710—74
FRIDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Papers laid on the Table—	
Statement showing action taken by Government on assurances etc., given during Third Session (Second Part) 1951	775
Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill—Passed, as amended	776—821
Delhi and Ajmer Rent Control Bill—Referred to Select Committee	821—31

273 78

	Columns
FRIDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1951—*Contd.*	
Notaries Bill—Discussion on motions to consider and to refer to Select Committee—Not concluded	832—41
Import of Dates	842—52
SATURDAY, 18TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Displaced Persons (Debts Adjustment) Bill—Introduced	853
Notaries Bill—Referred to Select Committee	853—56
Evacuee Interest (Separation) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	856—99
Tariff Commission Bill—Discussion on motion to consider—Not concluded	899—930
MONDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Forward Contracts Bill—Presentation of Report of Select Committee	931
Displaced Persons (Debts Adjustment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	931—74
Tariff Commission Bill—Discussion on motion to consider, as reported by the Select Committee—Not concluded	974—1014
TUESDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1951—	
Papers laid on the Table—(*i*) Amendments to Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, (*ii*) Amendments to Punjab Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940	1015—16
Tariff Commission Bill—Consideration of clauses—Not concluded	1016—98
WEDNESDAY, 22ND AUGUST, 1951—	
Papers laid on the Table—	
Declarations of Exemption under Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939	1099—1100
Agreement *re* Loan from U. S. A. for purchase of Foodgrains	1100—01
Motion for Adjournment—	
Fast by public men of Andhra *re* formation of Andhra Province	1101—03
Tariff Commission Bill—Consideration of Clauses—Not concluded	1103—80
THURSDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 1951—	
Resolution *re* measures for increased food production—Negatived	1181—1205
Resolution *re* necessity for an All India Bar—Withdrawn	1205—09
Resolution *re* opening of Provident Fund Accounts in Post Offices—Withdrawn	1209—11
Resolution *re* altering the boundaries of West Bengal—Negatived	1212—54
SATURDAY, 25TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Railway Companies (Emergency Provisions) Bill—Introduced	1255
Papers laid on the Table—	
Statement *re* Food Position	1255—56
Business of the House	1256—59
Tariff Commission Bill—Passed, as amended	1259—87
Benares Hindu University (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	1287—1328
Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	1287—1328
Government of Part C States Bill—Consideration of clauses—Not concluded	1328—56
MONDAY, 27TH AUGUST, 1951—	
Statement *re* Japanese Peace Treaty	1357—62
Business of the House	1362—63
Papers laid on the Table—	
Constitution (Removal of Difficulties) Order No. II (Third Amendment) Order	1363
Third Annual Report of Industrial Finance Corporation	1363
Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Extension of time for presentation of report of Select Committee	1363—64
Government of Part C States Bill—Consideration of clauses—Not concluded	1364—1426

TUESDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 1951— *Columns*

Papers laid on the Table—

(*i*) Recommendation by I. L. C. concerning Vocational training of adults including disabled persons ; and (*ii*) Action proposed to be taken by Government of India on the recommendation 1427

Occupation of two islands in the Brahmaputra by Pakistan Police . . 1427—30

Government of Part C States Bill—Consideration of clauses—Not concluded 1430—1524

WEDNESDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 1951—

Motion for Adjournment—

Maintenance of electrical equipment in Parliament Chamber . 1525—27

Papers laid on the Table—

Delhi Road Transport Authority (Advisory Council) Rules, 1951 . . 1527

Madras Port Trust (Amendment) Bill—Introduced 1527

Government of Part C States Bill—Consideration of clauses—Not concluded 1528—94

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Thursday, 23rd August, 1951

The House met at Half Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-30 A.M.

RESOLUTION *RE* MEASURES FOR INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION —*concld.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Dr. Mono Mohon Das on the 4th April, 1951:—

> "This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of ten members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different States for increased food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose".

Fifteen Members have already spoken on this Resolution. Hon. Members will remember the time limit on speeches is fifteeen minutes. As there are a number of other Resolutions on the Order Paper I leave the question of pace to the hon. Members.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): May I, Sir, submit that this Resolution has been discussed sufficiently, and the House might proceed to discuss the next Resolution on the list of business?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The debate shall go on until someone moves for closure.

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

"That the question be now put".

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): May I point out, Sir, that there were several amendments moved to this Resolution last time and that those Members have not been given an opportunity to speak? I therefore contend that opportunity should be given to discuss the Resolution further now. After all the question of food is a very important one.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member not spoken?

Shri Sidhva: I have not. I too have given notice of an amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right, he may speak.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, last time on the non-official day we discussed the question of food on the Resolution moved by my friend, Dr. Mono Mohon Das. In view of the fact that we are taking it up again after nearly four months I think it would be desirable to refresh the memory of the House as to what the Resolution aims at. The gist of my hon. friend's Resolution is that the food problem being very serious a committee may be appointed to consider the question. My amendment suggests that while I support the Resolution for the appointment of a committee, that committee should also be asked to investigate scientifically into whether the food problem is so acute as is contemplated to be, and whether there is any defect in the system of procurement and distribution.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): May I rise to a point of order? This question is more or less of a topical nature and, moreover, there was a very thorough discussion of it some four months ago. The whole situation has since undergone such a complete change that most of the speeches then made are almost all out of date.

[Dr. Deshmukh]

There are, besides, other Resolutions notice of which has been given. I would, therefore, like you, Sir, to give a ruling as to whether the whole question has now not ceased to be of much great importance and whether the debate on the motion should not, under the changed circumstances, be terminated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think I can give any ruling with respect to that matter. All I can say is that immediately after the hon. Member, Mr. Sidhva, who is speaking concludes, if the House wants to close discussion, and if any hon. Member moves for closure, I will ascertain the view of the House So far as I am concerned, I would like to say that fifteen Members have already spoken before. It is not as if every hon. Member who has given notice of an amendment ought to speak. If the House wants to conclude the debate I have no objection.

Shri Kamath: At least when non-official motions are discussed every Member who has tabled an amendment must be given a chance to speak because on official Bills Members do not get a fair chance.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are seven Resolutions in the Order Paper; each one of them has about fifteen to twenty amendments. At this rate we will not go into more than one Resolution. Therefore hon. Members must not be anxious for both the things.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): May I point out, Sir, that out of those who have given notice of amendments seven or eight have spoken so far?

Shri J. N. Hazarika (Assam): I suggest we discuss the present motion at great length. The food situation is daily growing acute.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): We want food and not discussion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Anyhow, I will ascertain the view of the House later. Mr. Sidhva may now proceed.

Shri Sidhva: I do not know how the situation has at all changed since the discussion on this motion four months ago.....

Dr. Deshmukh: I can prove it.

Shri Sidhva: The situation has become more acute. More and more foodgrains arrive from foreign countries and in this very House not a single day passes without a question on food being raised during the question hour. Now that very fact proves how intensely Members feel about the food shortage—I don't know how my friend, Dr. Deshmukh feels to the contrary unless of course there is ample food in Madhya Pradesh and because he is getting sufficient rice probably he does not care for the rest of the country.

My point is that the question has become very serious and becomes more and more so every day. Not only that, an alarming situation has arisen owing to the fact that even though we are spending more than Rs. 150 crores annually for the purchase of foodgrains from abroad, yet there is the complaint that food is not available. What is the reason for this? As the hon. Minister stated the other day there is no rice, only wheat is coming from abroad, that the quality of rice that we may get is bad. Well, we want all these matters examined scientifically. In its report the Planning Commission says that imports should continue for another five years, and their reason for that is that the population is going on increasing. If that is the only reason then has Government considered any steps to meet it? If they feel that the problem of food cannot be solved until the population problem is solved, then let them come out with definite proposals to solve population problem. They merely say that population is creating havoc in the country in the matter of food—as if the population was not increasing during the last two decades! We know that in every decade there has been an increase in population of nearly two to three crores but there was not such a distress in the country as there is today. Therefore, while I concede the increase in population, I am not prepared to accept the statement that the food shortage is due merely to increase in population. I say, as I have been saying so far, that there is something wrong somewhere. Procurement is very defective. Only the other day the procurement figures were given to us and I said then that excepting two minor States, namely Bhopal and Himachal Pradesh, the rest of the States had not procured to the target fixed. In some cases hardly 40 per cent. had been procured. This Government have been stating that while they fix the procurement target, actual procurement was a matter absolutely for the State Governments. Well, if the State Governments do not comply with the target fixed then what is the remedy for the Central Government to adopt? Have they ever considered it? If they feel the State Governments are autonomous

and therefore they do not want to interfere, may I know what is the solution then? Is there no solution? The Centre has got the power to intervene as they like, under the Constitution. If they do not want to take that power then what other method do they want to adopt to see that procurement is obtained to the fullest extent? These are very simple points for the Government to consider. They have no answer to give, no plan to offer—that is my complaint and that has been my complaint all along.

In the matter of import of foodgrains, Government have appointed a certain association in Bombay for the purpose of analysis of food.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that the resolution deals only the "measures taken by different States for increased food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose." Therefore, the observations he has been making are beside the point.

Shri Sidhva: I would ask my hon. friend to read my amendment where I have suggested the addition of the following at the end:

> "and also to ascertain whether the country is self-sufficient in the production of cereals and whether the present system of distribution and procurement is effective."

I am, therefore, speaking strictly on my amendment. There is at present no scientific process for the purpose of arriving at the conclusion that the food available in the country is not sufficient. At any rate, I do not want to enter into that contentious subject by quoting figures. All I need is that Government have no correct statistical data. One of the reasons, which I have pointed out previously, is that they do not follow any scientific method for calculating the adult equivalent, in regard to which there is great difference between government's basis and scientific basis. The scientists all over the world calculate it at 80 per cent. and until about four years back Government themselves were adopting this formula. But now they have changed it to 86 per cent. I, therefore, want to have this matter examined by the scientists of the world to enable Government to know whether their percentage is correct.

Sir, I was on the question of analysis, when my hon. friend the Deputy Minister interrupted me. In the foodgrains imported, there is usually 5 to 6 per cent. of dirt.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member's amendment is out of order—I do not know how it was allowed to be moved. The resolution is this:

> "This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of ten members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different States for increased food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose."

Increased food production may be necessary or may not be necessary—we may assume it may not be necessary. But steps are being taken to increase the production of food; money is being distributed to the provinces for that purpose. The object of the resolution is the appointment of a committee with a view to seeing how far that money is properly utilised and best use made of it. That is the limited scope of this resolution. By his amendment the hon. Member wants to ascertain

> "whether the country is self-sufficient in the production of cereals and whether the present system of distribution and procurement is effective."

This goes against the very spirit of the resolution It is implicit in the resolution that foodgrains have to be grown. All that it aims at is that a committee should be appointed to find out whether the money spent on this is properly utilised.

I, therefore, do not think that the hon. Member's amendment is in order and rule it out.

Shri Sidhva: I shall then speak on the Resolution proper and confine myself to an examination as to whether the money spent on the grow more food campaign is well spent

Out of Rs. 240 crores spent by Part A States on reclamation of land and other schemes, the Government of India has paid a subsidy of Rs. 122 crores, In spite of the huge amount involved it is very alarming and amazing to find that the quantum of food production in the country has not increased, consistently with the amount spent. Besides this huge amounts have been spent by the State Governments and private individuals on the sinking of wells, purchase of fertilizers etc. The value of tractors and fertilizers alone has come to Rs. 27 crores.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A year?

Shri Sidhva: All told, during the last four years. But inspite of the increase in the number of tractors. inspite of the increase in the consumption of fertilisers, food is not available. Am I not correct, therefore, in coming to the conclusion that there is something defective somewhere in the administration? Nobody has cared to examine these matters from a scientific angle. Whenever a committee is appointed by Government, Government feed them with their own statistics.....

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know where the hon. Member got the figure of Rs. 27 crores spent on tractors from?

Shri Sidhva: From a reply that was given by my hon. friend in answer to a question and the official reply that I received from the Ministry of Agriculture. There was a debate on that subject also. The hon. Member may verify, if he wants. The other day we were told that an officer of Government has gone abroad to purchase tractors.

Shri Thirumala Rao: He has not gone to purchase tractors but spares.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister will have a chance to reply.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I stood out of courtesy, because the hon. Member looked at me, expecting a reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is perhaps a mannerism of the hon. Member.

Shri Sidhva: I stand corrected, if I am wrong. In regard to some discussion on the CTO we heard the other day that there are a lot of surplus and unserviceable parts lying in the depot. Am I not, therefore, justified in stating that there is something wrong with the CTO, whose primary duty is to increase the area under cultivable land?

When the Central Government advance money to the provinces and afford them all facilities in the matter of grow more food, there should be some agency to see whether the money spent is properly utilised. Considering all these factors, the appointment of a committee to go into this matter is justified. I would, however, suggest, without meaning any kind of disrespect to anybody, that the committee should be composed wholly of Members of this House. We have been clamouring for some time to know the real facts. Government need only give us the assistance of a Secretary and we shall collect our own data and find out the truth. I do realise that some of the Members may not have the time to spare on account of the impending elections. But this is a very important matter which should be enquired into before the expiry of the life of this Parliament. I hope we would be in a position to give a report which would be worthy of consideration by Government, as against the reports presented by Thirumala Rao's Committee and the Mitra Committee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary to have a third different opinion?

Shri Sidhva: Mr. Thirumala Rao's committee only consisted of himself and one other officer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us not go into the details.

Shri Sidhva: I do not want to go into the details, Sir. You asked me a question and I answered you.

As you have already warned me that my time is over I do not wish to say anything more. I have discussed these points and I whole-heartedly support the motion moved by my friend Dr. Das. He has not given the names, but if the House is agreeable we may have.....

Shri Kamath: Seven.

Shri Sidhva: Whatever it may be. If the House accepts, then I am sure Dr. Das will give the names and I hope the Committee will certainly consider the matter.

Dr. M. M. Das (West Bengal): May I say, Sir, that this very question that I had not mentioned the names of the Members for the Committee was raised on 4th April when this Resolution was discussed, and the Speaker was pleased to explain that the Committee is to be appointed by Government, not by me? So there is no point in that argument.

Shri Kamath: By Parliament.

Shri Sidhva: It is your motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri J. N. Hazarika.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: It is very much to be welcomed that this Resolution has come up for discussion before the Parliament at a time when the food crisis is still continuing. We have been receiving distressing news from many parts of the country. Presently we have received news from West Bengal also that the food crisis is

mounting there. In Assam the food crisis is very acute. The Committee which Dr. Das has proposed to be set up should not only find out the wrongs and mistakes committed by the State Governments or the Government of India so far, but the Committee must recommend the measures by which the food production in the country as a whole may be increased.

For instance, as regards Assam, it should not merely be the duty of the Committee to find out what were the defects in the promotion of Grow More Food in Assam but it should be its duty to find out the causes why food is not grown much. Of course there have been natural calamities there. Last year there was the earthquake. Consequently there has been flooding to such an extent that the whole part of the country has been turned into a huge lake of waters. Will it be the duty of the Committee only to find out the defects of the Government of Assam and make suggestions to that Government as regards the measures to be taken to Grow More Food? It should be the duty of this Committee, and the Government of India, to find out remedial measures by means of which we can prevent flooding of the land, especially in the State of Assam.

Assam is always subject to natural calamities. Since last year most of the standing crops have been damaged in that State. During the recent floods 90 per cent. of the *aus* crop which was ready and ripe for harvesting was damaged or destroyed by these floods. Most of the seedlings meant for the *sali* crops has been destroyed by the floods. Most of the paddy grains in the areas which have been affected by the floods have also been damaged. In many villages in the interior of the valley of Assam which have been badly affected by the floods, even the cattle which are such necessary implements for growing more food, have also been washed away by the floods. It is the duty of the Government to enquire about all these things in co-ordination with the expert committee appointed for flood protection, protection from erosion etc.

In Assam now the food situation is very acute, though the Government of India has been kind enough to provide food for the next few months, that is till the *sali* crop is raised. Assam wants 2 lakhs tons of foodgrains. But, as you know, Assam is not a wheat-eating area. It is a land where the people eat rice. There paddy is the symbol of the Goddess Lakshmi, but wheat or milo is not so respected. Like Assam there are many parts of India where rice supplies have to be made.

It seems the Food Ministry is satisfied with the Food Agreement with America alone and they have not tried to obtain food from just across the border. They are not trying to get food from Burma though they entered into a contract. Out of the contract they made, as the hon. Minister some time back stated, of 9 million and 700 thousand tons of rice, they have imported only a very small quantity so far. We should not look abroad for getting our food requirements when we can get them from just across our border. Why has it not been done? Why have they not tried to obtain food from Pakistan? The food situation in Assam is so very acute. Recently, a few weeks ago, the labour in the tea gardens of Assam resorted not only to strike but to rioting and assaulted the management. They cannot eat wheat. In the course of the Debate on the Presidential Address one hon. Member said that people in certain parts of India do not know how to eat wheat and milo. But I would like to know why no endeavour is being made to get rice from Pakistan as well as from other places like Egypt, Burma, Thailand etc. And I would like to know why the food from Burma which had been contracted for is not forthcoming to feed our suffering population at a moment when the people want it most.

10 A.M.

At the same time procurement is not very satisfactory. Do you want to procure rice with the help of the military and the police? It is one of the most damaging policies of our Government to get food by means of military aid. Give them fair prices and it will be coming forth voluntarily. You pay Rs. 90 a maund for the rice which is flown from Calcutta to Assam and you are supplying at the rate of Rs. 5 to the tea garden labour. The management are supplying it at Rs. 5. Is it reasonable that when you are paying at the rate of Rs. 90, and in paying the transport system and other organisations, you should not give Rs. 50 to the peasants? In Assam in one subdivision there was a relaxation in the movement and price and we got one lakh maunds of paddy coming from the surplus pockets. It was only due to the relaxation of the movement and price that we got one lakh maunds. I do not know why such a policy is not adopted in Assam, where it is absolutely necessary. We are only looking to foreign countries

[Shri J. N. Hazarika]

for help in food. You can give easily Rs. 45 per maund to the growers. The plantation authorities are paying Rs. 90 per maund. Do you think in this manner the Tea growing industry can survive? I doubt very much whether it will survive for another ten years, if it is to procure Rice at Rs. 90 per maund and keep the labour by selling at Rs. 5. If this is the position of the labour position in Assam, I ask where will the labour over one and half million go? Will not they be unemployed? I ask what steps are Government taking to solve this problem? I say that in the matter of procurement as well as in the import of food, there is something wrong. At the same time the Assam Government is not helped very much in procurement. I know that once the Assam Government suggested that in order to get their procurement from the villages the roads leading to them should also be improved but the Central Government did not agree to that idea.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The primary business of the Government is on the question of increased production. The Resolution addressed itself to increased production and not procurement.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Increased production is always necessary for increased supply of rice and ultimately food to the people. It is also the indispensable duty of Government to supply food to States like Assam from the surplus provinces. I say that in the matter of procurement as well as in getting food the State Government of Assam is not responsible alone. The Government of India also is at fault. My suggestion is that necessary steps should be taken at the present moment to find out the remedies to improve the Grow More Food campaign. In many places we have seen that a lot of money is being squandered in the name of Grow More Food. I agree that some measures have been taken but they are not altogether successful. It should be dealt with in a scientific manner and there should not only be a parliamentary Committee, but the work should be co-ordinated with a body of experts. Then only we can expect more food in the country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will ask Mr. Thirumala Rao to speak. The only relief desired by this resolution is that a Committee should be appointed to look into the method of appropriation or the expenditure by the State Governments and subsidies granted by the Central Government. Now there are a number of other resolutions also on the order paper today. I believe, I am only throwing out a suggestion for non. Members here that as many resolutions as possible must be gone through so that the opinions or the views of the Government on particular resolutions may be elicited before the House. So far as the present resolution is concerned, the food situation is not the subject matter. True, a number of steps have been taken and they have been taken in the right direction.....

Shri Sidhva: Self-sufficiency of food is one.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We can detail the measures taken by different States for increased food production and the expenditure of the Union's grants and loans for that purpose and that food is not available. The question is how far the expenditure is adequate or what steps do we propose to increase the expenditure. The Committee should go into the question whether the expenditure has been incurred properly or not. Let us hear the Minister, and see what he has to say in regard to this matter.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I say that my resolution assumed that proper utilization of the money has not been done and that we are unable to produce the amount of food required in this country.

Shri Thirumala Rao *rose—*

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): I have got a small amendment and kindly permit me to move it? It is:

> "with special reference to the utilization of the fund given by the Central Government to different States as subsidies and procurement bonus."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: My own feeling with regard to this amendment is that we cannot go on adjourning from day to day and we cannot expect to receive amendments to the resolutions. The original amendments have already been moved and at this stage all those Members who have already spoken, have no opportunity to speak on the new amendments tabled today and, therefore, this amendment will not be allowed.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I have followed the discussion during the last day and today also with the attention that it deserves. But I am not convinced that the Government should accept this resolution because the purpose for which the Committee is intended to be appointed will not be served by the mere appointment of the Committee...

An Hon. Member: Please come to the front bench. The speech is not audible.

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): May I just point out that on a previous occasion, the Chairman, Shrimati Durgabai had given a ruling that nobody should come over to the front bench by giving up his own seat?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would not say so. I understand that a separate seat which has not been allotted to any of the Ministers has been kept vacant there, so that any hon. Member may occupy it when he wants to speak. Of course he must make himself heard and other hon. Members are also anxious to hear him. I do not want hon. Members to go back from the front to rear seats. I invite all hon. Members to come to the front seat.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Sir, I have no desire to take an adventitous advantage by this advancement. I simply want to co-operate with the House and make myself heard better and that is why I have gratefully accepted the suggestion of my hon. friend Mr. Kamath. It has no political significance.....

Shri Kamath: Only physical advance, not political.

Shri Thirumala Rao: So far as the detailed examination of the measures taken by different States for increasing food production goes, the following steps are being taken by the Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments. I should like to remind the House that this Grow More Food Campaign is a legacy from the previous regime. It was started even before the year 1947, i.e., somewhere about 1943 during the war when food supplies had to be made for the Army on a very large scale and when imports were found to be dwindling during that time but that went on in an almost unorthodox and *ad hoc* manner till 1947. After the National Government came into power in the year 1947 the question was reviewed and a sort of Five-year Plan was evolved by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Since 1947 again the matter has been under constant review and examination by the Central Government. Recently in the year 1950-51 an integrated plan of production of foodgrains as well as cash crops like jute and cotton was evolved. Therefore, this has undergone a series of changes. All that could be done with the utmost scrutiny and care under the Ministry is being done to see that this programme is effectively and efficiently implemented. Sir, with regard to the measures taken by different States about increased food production, every State is asked to show what is the quantity of extra production that State is capable of producing by taking certain measures and the measures that are generally taken are the minor irrigation schemes like construction of wells, tanks, channels, small dams and bunds and contour bunding.

These schemes I have mentioned on several occasions on the floor of this House in reply to very searching and repeated questions put by my hon. friends like Mr. Sidhva; I have given many times detailed figures of several States of how many thousands of tanks were repaired, how many thousands of small irrigation canals were constructed. All these things I have given State-wise in the House before. For instance, I may draw the attention of the House to the fact that a state like Mysore which is 26,000 square miles in extent, has got 24,000 tanks and they have embarked on a scheme of renovating and repairing and keeping all these tanks intact. Not only that, Mysore is a plateau. They have got a system of preventing the silting up of tanks by storing the water in a catchment area which is higher than the tank. In Bihar, thousands of small works have been done. In Madras, I know personally renovation of large tanks was undertaken, particularly in the southern districts which depend on tank irrigation. We have got all these figures in the archives of the State Governments and the Central Government about these minor irrigation schemes, tank improvement schemes, well digging schemes, etc. Madras alone has dug about 29,000 wells under the well-sinking scheme.

Shri A. Joseph (Madras): Wells may have been dug, but they are not supplying water to the cultivators.

Shri Thirumala Rao: What can you and I do when the God of Rain has failed for the last four years? Wells have been dug in the southern districts and water could not be found for want of rain. You can make all human efforts. You can only pray to God, if you believe in one, to supplement your efforts with rain.

Shri Kamath: How many dams, big and small?

Shri Thirumala Rao: All these things. I should like to have notice of because I have not come prepared to make a long speech and take the time of the House. These things have been mentioned on the floor of the House more than once.

Shri Sidhva: Yet, the situation is bad.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I will tell you why it is bad.

I may tell you why the States are grateful for this programme of improving the minor irrigation schemes, improving the condition of the tanks and digging of wells, and also sinking of tube wells. Because, these are permanent works that have been achieved on account of the money spent so far. If you are not able to assess the results in a year or two, it is not the fault of the schemes themselves. After all, agriculture is a long range programme whose results have to be judged not year by year or half year by half year, but as it develops. I have known of a scheme which brought 19,000 acres under cultivation under one Grow More Food programme. The scheme was completed. But, so far only 10,000 acres have been cultivated by the ryots. Still 9.000 acres are awaiting to be cultivated by the ryots. We cannot blame them. We can induce them to grow more; we can organise rural credit and advance money for the purchase of bulls and find the extra money for investment in bringing fresh land under cultivation. All these mean delay. I do not concede for one moment that the money spent on these schemes has been ill-spent or badly spent; but it has been wisely spent and the results are going to accrue if not today, tomorrow.

Shri Sidhva: When?

Shri Thirumala Rao: There are other short duration schemes, improving the seeds, supply of manure, organic and inorganic. This work of compost making has been carried on on a large scale all over the country, and the manufacture of compost has been placed on a scientific basis. Certain State Governments like Bihar have passed a law that it is compulsory for every major *panchayat* to convert all the village refuse into compost and give it to the ryots. I have seen a small Municipality like Hassan in the Mysore State with a population of 8,000, which has an income of 5 lakhs of rupees and on compost alone, they are making about two lakhs a year. I was only giving an example of how compost making has been organised on a large scale throughout the country in all the States. We have also allotted some money for this purpose.

There are schemes for the distribution of manures, oil cakes, and green manure seeds. This programme of green manure seeds is being followed with meticulous and scientific persistency by the Director of Agriculture, Madras. You can go and see large numbers of cultivators growing these green manure plants on the tank bunds and on the field bunds and plough them back into the fields after they grow to a height of three feet.

Shri Kamath: In Andhra?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Especially in Andhra, because this is useful in the delta areas where there is plentiful supply of water.

Shri Chattopadhyay (West Bengal): The hon. Minister has been giving instances from the South specially Madras. Let him say something about the North as well.

An Hon. Member: About Bihar also.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I do not know whether Bihar is in the South or North. Bengal is also doing a good deal of work. Wherever I go, I call the Director of Agriculture and the Grow More Food Commissioner. For instance, I went to Bengal thrice and spent three hours each time discussing schemes with them.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): May I put a question? Why is it that these things are progressing; but self-sufficiency is regressing and it has now receded by four years?

Shri Thirumala Rao: As all these things are progressing, production of children is also progressing. That is the trouble. The population is increasing every day. I shall deal with that question now.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I put a question?

Shri Sidhva: Let us see the results.

Shri R. Velayudhan (Travancore-Cochin): One question.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister does not give way. In the end, he will answer all questions.

Shri R. Velayudhan: One question about population.

Shri Thirumala Rao: You are not afflicted with that problem yet.

Coming to distribution of manure, we have imported thousands of tons of inorganic manure from abroad and they have been supplied to the States at very low prices. In order to make these fertilisers popular, in certain States, a subsidy was also given. Now, there is a great competition for this manure and no more subsidy is required. Ryots themselves have come to

know the value of these fertilisers. But, there is also a catch in this, I may tell the House. A certain quantity of these fertilisers which is supplied to grow foodgrains like wheat and paddy is diverted to sugarcane and tobacco clandestinely. The attention of the State Governments has been drawn to the fact that some people who buy these fertilisers for paddy, sell them at higher rates in the black market to sugarcane growers and make money. These things are being closely watched and being stopped.

The U.P. Government has got a very big scheme for the supply of improved seeds to almost all the cultivators in the U.P. They have started farms and from there they give improved seeds to certain cultivators and in return they get a certain quantity of improved seeds which is being distributed on a large scale in all the States. Protection against locusts, plant protection schemes, all these are making good progress in all the States. I do not think a committee of this House will be able to get any more information or new information on these topics than what is available with the State Governments and the Central Government. If any Member of the House wants any information, that could be got from the State Governments or the Central Government and any suggestions based on that information are welcome from the Members of this House. Even this Committee, which is a roving commission, goes about touring from place to place, they have to take the assistance of the State Governments and they would not be able to get any more points than what is already available with the Central and State Governments.

Shri Sidhva: Under the present scheme, when will the country be self-sufficient?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I shall answer that question. First, let me dispose of the two parts of the Resolution, and then I will deal with the general question in five minutes.

With regard to the expenditure of the Union Government on grants and loans, there are two parts. We give a certain sum of money by way of grants and a certain sum by way of loans. The grant part is on a 50:50 basis. The State Government must be able to spend on a particular item 50 per cent. of the expenditure if it is to be entitled to the grant of the rest of the 50 per cent. With regard to grants, the strictest scrutiny is being exercised. First, a high-powered officer from the Centre goes to the States, examines the schemes with the officers there, asks for the results so far produced and then recommends to the Central Government for sanction of the grant. This, again, will be examined once more by the Finance Section of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and ultimately it has to be granted by the Finance Ministry. There are a series of checks and controls exercised over the grants, whether the money that is granted is being utilised properly for the purposes for which the grants are intended.

And with regard to the loans it is the responsibility of the State Governments to repay them to the Centre with interest, if any, in due instalments. If the State Governments, in their turn have dispersed the money among the ryots, it is their responsibility to recover this money from the ryots. It is not the responsibility of the Central Government.

Then my friends will ask, with all this in progress, why is it that we do not get sufficient food? The whole difficulty is in regard to the assessment of the result of these schemes. New areas are being brought under cultivation and more food is actually being produced but the results are being assessed according to an empirical standard or yard-stick devised by some intelligent officers of the Food and Agricultural Department.

Shri Kamath: Intelligent officers or Ministers?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I said intelligent officers of the Ministry. Ministers are not intelligent, I agree with the hon. Member, because I cannot claim better intelligence before him.

Well, about 1947 or so, they put it down that if 1 ton of extra fertilizer was put in, you would get 10 mds. or 5 mds. of extra grain, and on that basis they went on calculating the results. If you put in 1 so much of extra fertilizer, you would get so much of extra grain. But now we have one of the ablest statisticians in our section who has recently been lent to the F.A.O. for a short while. He with the assistance of other able officers has evolved a scheme of random sampling and thousands of fields are now being examined according to this scheme of random sampling. They take one cent or two cents or four cents of land to which fertilizers are supplied and also an adjacent area of land where it is not supplied and then compare the yields and estimate the production over other areas. By this method, we are able to estimate the yields within an error of 10 per cent. only. This sort

[Shri Thirumala Rao]

of random sampling is being carried on extensively in Madras and Bengal. Bengal has brought out a pamphlet on it. They do it in Uttar Pradesh also over thousands of fields. So we are able to assess the actual production by this means. There are, whatever mistakes might have been made, whatever lacunae might have existed in regard to the estimating of the actual production on account of the Grow More Food schemes, these are being eliminated now by means of this more scientific investigation that is being carried on extensively all over the country.

Shri Sidhva: When will it be completed?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I can give the hon. Member the pamphlet brought out by the Government of West Bengal where they give the results of thousands of experiments.

Shri Sidhva: But I want to know when this sampling will be completed.

Shri Thirumala Rao. It is a perpetual scheme and it goes on. It is a continuing programme. As more and more food is being produced, they have to collect certain data and then come to their conclusions.

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa): Is it a fact that Bengal Government wants more food now?

Shri Thirumala Rao: They may require more food, because they have about 13 lakhs of people come from Pakistan. There are these other factors also to be taken into consideration, in addition to the natural increase of the population. Our economy has been upset in so many directions by these factors. Also there are now people who demand rice who or whose past generation did not eat rice, because their tastes are changing. We are telling the people that we must raise their standard of life and so people who used to eat coarse grain now want finer ones and it is the responsibility of Government to supply it to them in sufficient quantities to meet the tastes of the people,

Well then, these amounts are being spent and these schemes are in progress. But to get their results takes some time. Even the Planning Commission has written a paragraph to the effect that whatever had been done hitherto, hereafter the assessment of the results has to be carried on on more scientific lines. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research—an important wing of the Government is carrying on the work with a greater degree of accuracy. And we hope the results will enable us to give a more correct assessment of the results. Under these circumstances, Sir, I do not think any useful purpose would be served by having a committee of the House now, especially at the fag end of the present Parliament when a new Parliament would be coming in soon. It is no use having a roving Commission composed of some members of this House to go over the whole thing. After all, they too will have to go to the headquarters of the Governments and get the data which these governments now have. They cannot do random sampling in the fields themselves. Therefore I am sorry I am unable to accept the Resolution moved. But Government will take note of all that is said during the discussion of this motion and will certainly profit by the advice given by hon. Members. Therefore I have to oppose the Motion. I would request the hon. Member not to press his Motion.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava (Ajmer): In the romantic and learned survey of the hon. Minister covering the various States, I am very much disappointed to see that he has not mentioned a word about the progress of the schemes in the centrally administered areas which are the direct responsibility of the Centre.

Shri Thirumala Rao: In romance, there is bound to be a certain amount of disappointment.

Dr. M. M. Das: I am grateful to this House and to the hon. Members who have taken such keen interest in the subject matter of my Resolution and who have taken part in the discussion of this important question. That the subject matter of the Resolution is not unimportant is proved by the fact that to-day is the second day of its discussion. Although the scope of my Resolution was narrow, the hon. Members took this opportunity to express their views on the present food problem in the country as a whole and they have included in their discussion all the different aspects of this important problem. From the views expressed by many hon. Members, some very important points stand out prominently to which I shall make brief reference.

Firstly, it is evident that the money ear-marked for the development of agriculture in this country and given as loans and grants to the different States has not been properly utilised. There is no doubt that there has been some misuse of that money. My hon. friend Shri Munavalli has spoken about

this money given to individual cultivators being misused and spent for other purposes. Then my friend Dr. Deshmukh mentioned the case of the Central Tractor Organisation and proved how this money was being wasted. My friend Shri Ram Subhag Singh from Bihar said that the money given to the cultivator went into the pockets of the landowners.

The next point to which I refer, as coming prominently during the discussion is that in spite of the huge expenditure incurred by the Centre and the different State Governments, we have not been able to enlist the sympathy or arouse the enthusiasm of the cultivators.

The third point is that the procurement policy of the Government and the very low control price of foodgrains have damped the activities of the cultivators.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member making a second speech or only replying?

Dr. M. M. Das: I am giving the reply, Sir. And when doing so I am just mentioning the prominent points that had been already raised during the debate.

Fourthly, there being no parity between the price of the cash crops and the food crops, cash crops being more profitable to the cultivator than the food crop, more and more areas are being diverted every year from food crops to cash crops.

Sir, none of these four points are new. They have been mentioned on the floor of the House many times. But the Government does not seem to take any notice of these important points, in formulating their policy for the advancement of agriculture in this country. In addition to these points, several other matters also have been raised by some of the hon. Members. My hon. friend Mr. Samanta, who is a veteran cultivator not only in his own province but even in Delhi, where his kitchen garden is one of the finest I have ever seen...

Shri Kamath: Is it finer than the hon. Minister's garden?

Dr. M. M. Das: I have not had the good fortune to look into the garden of the Minister.

Shri Kamath: That is unfortunate.

Dr. M. M. Das: Mr. Samanta said that there should be a psychological change in the approach of the government officials to the farmers and cultivators. It should be the approach of a friend to a friend and not that of a master to a servant.

Another veteran cultivator from Bihar Mr. Mohiuddin, who is also a cultivator himself mentioned how men without any practical experience of agriculture are being appointed in the State agriculture departments and how when they go to the farmers and cultivators in the countryside and suggest something to them, they betray their lack of agricultural knowledge, with the result that the cultivators refuse to implement their suggestions. This is another important point which the State Governments should bear in mind in connection with the appointment of agricultural officers who are intended to go to the countryside to propagate improved methods of agriculture among cultivators.

My friend Prof. Ranga, the valiant champion of the *kisans*, pointed out with what neglect and indifference the Government is treating the *kisans*. He demanded that the *kisans* of the country should get equal treatment like the proletariat and professional people in the towns at the hands of the Government.

My friend Mr. Rathnaswamy referred to the utter disregard and neglect by Government of the human element in the countryside.

These are matters of fundamental importance and should be kept in mind by the Government at the time of the formulation of their policies.

Many of my friends in this House have given notice of amendments to my resolution. It would have been a matter of great pleasure for me to accept at least some of these, so far as they are consistent with the original resolution. But the dispensation of my hon. friend the Deputy Minister has come and the House knows that the fate of my resolution is sealed. With the assurance given by the Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his resolution?

Shri R. Velayudhan: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member insist upon his refusal?

Shri Kamath: Under the rules of procedure even if a single Member opposes the withdrawal of the motion it should be put to the vote of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am going to act up to the rule. I only wanted to know whether the hon. Member who said "No" is sticking to it. Before the main resolution is put to the House the amendments will have to be disposed of one by one.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

For the original resolution, substitute the following:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different state Governments for increased food production."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

For the original resolution, substitute the following:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament preferably from each State and having some knowledge and experience of cultivation be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments and to establish co-ordination among the Central Government, the State Governments and the producers for increasing food production."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

For the original resolution, substitute the following:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee of at least twenty members consisting mostly of Members of Parliament and those who possess expert knowledge on food and agriculture be appointed to examine in detail the various steps taken by the States to step up agricultural production and to establish a machinery to co-ordinate these activities between the Centre and the States and also to explore the possibilities of encouraging private agencies to join this scheme of intensified agricultural production."

The motion was negatived.

Shri S. C. Samanta (West Bengal): I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

श्री भट्ट : मैं अपने सब संशोधन वापस लेने की इजाजत चाहता हूं ।

[**Shri Bhatt** (Bombay): I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendments]

The amendments were, by leave, withdrawn.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Bihar): I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Chandrika Ram is not in his seat. I shall put both his amendments to the House. The question is:

(i) For the word "ten" substitute the word "five".

(ii) Add the following at the end, "and also to suggest ways and means how to improve the situation regarding these activities."

The motions were negatived.

Shri Munavalli (Bombay): I beg to withdraw my amendments.

The amendments were, by leave, withdrawn.

Shri K. Vaidya (Hyderabad): I beg to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Shri S. N. Das (Bihar): I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Add the following at the end: "and the Committee be request-

ed to submit its report by the first week of the next session with its suggestions."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Add the following at the end:

"and also to collect statistics of the actual position of cereals in various States".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Add the following at the end:

"and also to examine the possibility of creating a machinery to co-ordinate the activities of various States in respect of production, procurement and efficient distribution of food."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of ten Members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different States for increased food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose."

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION *RE* NECESSITY FOR AN ALL INDIA BAR

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar): May I make a submission, Sir? The next Resolution stands in the name of Pandit M. B. Bhargava, but there is another motion in my name—I do not propose to take more than five minutes... ..

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: ...and I think the hon. Minister also is not likely to take more than five minutes. So we might take it first and dispose it of.

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar): I can dispose of this motion in one minute which you cannot do.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is for the House to consider. The hon. Minister wants to say that effect has been given to the substantive portion of the Resolution. The Resolution is already there next in priority. There is nothing more to be done about it than merely making a statement on either side.

Dr. Ambedkar: With regard to the other Resolution my position is the same. I have practically taken steps to appoint a Committee and I was going to tell my hon. friend that it would be a waste of time for the House and for him to discuss that matter, if I am allowed to make a statement. I think he need not make a statement at all; he may just say, "I move".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, Pandit M. B. Bhargava may formally move his Resolution.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava (Ajmer): I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that an independent and autonomous Bar on an all India basis is necessary in the interest of the public and legal profession, and that Government should undertake legislation on the subject at an early date."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that an independent and autonomous Bar on an all India basis is necessary in the interest of the public and legal profession, and that Government should undertake legislation on the subject at an early date."

There is an amendment by Shri S. N. Das.

Shri S. N. Das (Bihar): I would like to hear the statement of the hon. Minister before I move my amendment, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister will make a statement with respect both to the Resolution and the amendment. Therefore the amendment may be moved.

Shri S. N. Das: I beg to move:

For the original Resolution, substitute the following:

"This House is of opinion that the time has now come when the Government of India should appoint a Committee to inquire into the working of laws pertaining to legal profession, in force in

[Shri S. N. Das]

different States, with a view to ascertain the necessity, desirability and feasibility of an independent and autonomous Bar on an all India basis."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

"This House is of opinion that the time has now come when the Government of India should appoint a Committee to inquire into the working of laws pertaining to legal profession, in force in different States, with a view to ascertain the necessity, desirability and feasibility of an independent and autonomous Bar on an all India basis."

Dr. Ambedkar: It has been the desire of Members of Parliament who represent the legal profession in this House to have, as they call it, an independent, autonomous and all India Bar. Personally, I have not had a complete and an adequate idea of what exactly Members mean when they say that they want an independent and an autonomous Bar. But I do not think it is necessary at this moment to enter into any discussion as to what an independent and an autonomous Bar may be, and I am therefore of opinion that it is desirable, in order that this matter may be considered once and for all, to appoint a Committee to investigate into this matter.

Having considered this matter, I have come to the conclusion that there are probably six questions that require to be considered so far as the Bar in India is concerned. One is the desirability and feasibility of a completely unified Bar for the whole of India; secondly, the continuance or abolition of the dual system of counsel and solicitor or agent which obtains in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts at Bombay and Calcutta; thirdly, the continuance or abolition of different classes of legal practitioners like advocates of the Supreme Court, advocates of the various High Courts, district court pleaders, *mukhtars* entitled to practise in criminal courts only, revenue agents, income-tax practitioners etc; fourthly, the desirability and feasibility of establishing a single Bar Council either for the whole of India or for each State separately; fifthly, the establishment of a separate Bar Council for the Supreme Court; and, last, the consolidation and revision of the various enactments, Central as well as State, relating to the legal practitioners.

I believe I have exhausted all the questions that have to be considered in order to give effect to the purport of the motion which my friend, Mr. Mukut Beharilal has moved just now. As I said, I had already decided to appoint a Committee and I have been in correspondence with the Supreme Court in order to ascertain whether the Supreme Court would be prepared to spare the services of one of their Judges to act as the Chairman of this Committee. Unfortunately, as hon. Members know, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is out of India for the moment and it has not been possible for me to get his final reply. He will be coming, I am told, some time early next month, and as soon as he comes and as soon as he lets me know as to which particular Judge he would be in a position to spare to act as the Chairman of this Committee, the Committee will be appointed and will begin to function. I also propose to appoint the Attorney-General, the Advocate-General of one major State, a retired High Court Judge, and one or two Members of Parliament who have been taking keen interest in this subject to constitute this Committee.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Which major State?

Dr. Ambedkar: Any of the major States—I have not decided which. By major State I mean a Part A State. I also propose, although I have not decided as yet, that we should have one member drawn from what we call Part B States, particularly Rajasthan and that area where the system that is operating is not quite familiar to us, at any rate it is not quite familiar to me, and I would therefore like to have one representative from that area to be on the Committee to give us information as to how exactly the bar functions in that area. I would request the Committee to make a report within about three or four months so that after the report is received and considered Parliament will have a piece of legislation brought before it for its consideration. I hope this will satisfy my hon. friend and he will withdraw the Resolution.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): I would suggest three Members of Parliament with judicial knowledge.

Dr. Ambedkar: I am prepared to include Mr. Sidhva if he likes. We should have a non-legal Member also, because he would bring in commonsense.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Will it be open to this Committee to specify the powers, functions, and constitution of these Bar Councils and their relation *inter se* with the Supreme Court and the High Courts?

Dr. Ambedkar: Yes.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know whether the disciplinary jurisdiction will vest in these Councils or only in the High Courts?

Dr. Ambedkar: I have already laid before the House what I regard as special problems which create difficulties for the moment. Incidental questions will undoubtedly be considered.

An Hon. Member: The Committee will give its suggestions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I believe an informal Committee also sat on this question and made some recommendations to the hon. Minister.

Dr. Ambedkar: I have no recollection. May be that is so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In view of the statement made by the hon. Minister I do not think the resolution is pressed. Has the mover the permission of the House to withdraw his resolution?

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The amendments automatically go. Next resolution.

RESOLUTION *RE* OPENING OF PROVIDENT FUND ACCOUNTS IN POST OFFICES

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar): The resolution that stands in my name is a very simple one. I beg to move:

> "This House is of opinion that Government should allow charitable institutions to open Provident Fund Accounts for their employees in Post Offices and that necessary amendments providing this facility should be made in the Postal Savings Bank Account Rules."

At present the opening of a conjoint account or provident fund account standing both in the name of the employer and the employee is limited to certain sections as far as I have been able to study the rules and therefore public institutions and charitable institutions are sometimes deprived of this facility and not only are they deprived but their servants do not get the benefit of provident fund. It is desirable in the present circumstances that we extend this facility to these people and that is why I have brought forward this resolution. I would request the hon. Minister kindly to accept it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Resolution moved:

> "This House is of opinion that Government should allow charitable institutions to open Provident Fund Accounts for their employees in Post Offices and that necessary amendments providing this facility should be made in the Postal Savings Bank Account Rules."

The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): I have read the resolution put forward by the hon. Member and I would like to refer him to the existing rules which I consider cover already what he wants. Rule 42(a) of the Post Office Savings Bank Account Rules says:

> "Public accounts may be opened by Secretaries, Treasurers, Managers or other responsible office-bearers of the funds of any dispensary, church, or other religious institutions, schools..... or asylums or libraries or of any other funds of a properly constituted association for the encouragement of thrift and for the mutual benefit of its members"

Then rule 42(c) says:

> "Secretaries, Managers or other responsible office-bearers of benevolent funds, i.e., funds formed by mutual subscription as an insurance against domestic misfortune, may be allowed public accounts."

Rule 44(b) says:

> "Managers of provident funds authorised by Government in connection with court of wards and other institutions administered or controlled by Government are allowed to open similar accounts on behalf of non-pensionable employees paid from the funds of the court of wards or other institutions in accordance with rules which may from time to time be sanctioned by provincial Governments or Administrations."

Then Rule 44 (h) says:

> "Not more than one account may also be opened by a person or persons authorised by a private firm or company in the name of the firm's or company's employees provident fund accounts for the purpose of

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur]

depositing provident fund balance of all its employees."

In all these cases, only one account is allowed to be opened in the name of the authorised Manager of the particular Organisation or Fund and the individual accounts are maintained by the Manager himself. I feel that this really gives all the facilities that are necessary. If the individual accounts of employees were allowed to be opened on their own, it would mean a tremendous drain on postal revenues. Therefore, I suggest that if the hon. Member has any specific complaints or if he feels that the Post Offices sometimes refuse without any justification, I shall certainly be glad to circularise and look into complaints, but I maintain that in view of the existing rules the resolution is really not necessary and I would ask him to withdraw it.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: I have heard with attention and care the points made by the hon. Minister and particularly her reference to Section 42 of the Rules and also Section 44. Section 42 relates to public accounts and there the transactions have to be in the name of one person who may operate that account. In the case of a provident fund account, the account has to be conjointly operated, that is, it has to be in the name of the employer and the employee and therefore it is covered by the Section dealing with conjoint accounts. In this connection, the hon. Minister has referred me to sub-clauses (d) and (h). What I submit to her is that there are difficulties created in the way of opening of provident fund accounts of charitable institutions which are not in any way connected with Government and therefore it is that I brought forward this resolution. But having had the assurance that she will kindly look into the cases where this difficulty has arisen and also that she will remedy it by issuing a circular, I take it that her statement in this House will undoubtedly guide her Department and they will know that such cases are covered by these rules. In view of this, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave to withdraw?

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The next resolution stands in the name of Shri Basanta Kumar Das. But I find that Shri Barman has been authorised to move it.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): I think it should come at the end, just as in the case of questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This case is governed by Rule 118(2), which says that if the Member when called upon is absent any other Member authorised by him in writing in this behalf may with the permission of the Speaker move his resolution. It need not be postponed and there is no question of standing over till the end as in the case of questions.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): I do not object, because my hon. friend is not likely to take long, but I would like to point out that the rule about questions is similar and it was merely as a result of practice I think that the hon. Speaker was calling the question at the end.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is a difference. With respect to resolutions, there is a ballot and a priority is given. With respect to questions, there is only the order of tabling and nothing more. Yes, Shri Barman.

RESOLUTION RE ALTERING THE BOUNDARIES OF WEST BENGAL

Shri Barman (West Bengal): I beg to move the following resolution that stands in the name of Shri Basanta Kumar Das:

> "This House is of opinion that early steps should be taken to alter the boundaries of the State of West Bengal with a view to establishing contiguity between the detached parts of the State."

Hon. Members of this House know too well.....(*Interruption.*)

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): May I point out that the Minister concerned is not present? There is neither the Home Minister nor the Foreign Minister. In fact, no Minister is present at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will be sent for.

An Hon. Member: The Deputy Minister, Shri Raj Bahadur, is here to take notes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. the Deputy Minister will take notes and assist the Home Minister when he comes.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Has he been authorised to do it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Any Minister can take entire charge.

Shri Kamath: Can a Deputy Minister represent the Cabinet?

Shri Barman: Hon. Members of this House know too well that partition affected most seriously the province of West Bengal. Of course, other provinces like the Punjab have been partitioned. After certain happenings, most calamitous in our history, for the present Punjab has been divided in such a way that the province of East Punjab is now a contiguous whole. There is another province of India whose boundaries were affected by partition: that is the province of Assam. That has also been placed in a very disadvantageous position. But in this case also, she is now a contiguous entity.

It is only the province of West Bengal that has been truncated in such a way, that the portion of the province which is on the north is absolutely cut off from the south. This is a very delicate subject, because it raises many contentious issues. I do not wish to raise any contentious points. But I would ask the Government of the day to consider dispassionately the position of the northern part of West Bengal and after taking all the circumstances into consideration see whether the claim of West Bengal to have contiguity between the two truncated parts is just or not.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI *in the Chair*]

If the justice of my claim is conceded, the next question that arises is how long will this justice be delayed. Sir, what is the position at present? For administrative purposes North Bengal is one with the province of West Bengal, but there is no contiguity. All the lines of communication are cut off. The existing communication lines have gone over to Pakistan. This is neither the time nor the occasion to go into the question as to how this has been done by the Award. But just after partition we from the North Bengal pressed one claim on our friends from the State of Bihar, for the sake of contiguity. What is the economic position of North Bengal? Prices of all the consumer goods are almost double of those obtaining in the southern part. While the price of rice is about Rs. 16 to 20 in other parts of Bengal at no time in the year does it reach lower than Rs. 40 in the north—not to speak of the prices ruling now. The chief reason for this is that we have no means of direct transport. Sometimes we have to transport rice from other parts of West Bengal by air. Similarly fruits that are grown in the north are transported to Calcutta by air. It might perhaps be said that the railways are an all-India administration. But its condition of that part of the railway is most deplorable. I do not accuse the railway administration; nor do I want to apportion blame. They are trying their best to improve it bit by bit. But I do not know how many years it will take to set all these things right. Had the province been a contiguous whole the West Bengal Government themselves would have undertaken constructions of roads and similar projects. Madam, but for the manifesto adopted by the present party in power regarding the readjustment of territories on a linguistic basis, we might not have raised this subject at this moment. The eastern part of the district of Purnea speaks the same tongue as we do in North Bengal. Kishanganj population speak the same tongue that we do in the northern part.

I do humbly submit that this is a very delicate matter. There should be no acrimony over it. But when the Government as well as the party of the day, consider the cases of other parts of India for readjustment on a linguistic basis, the case of Bengal should be given special consideration, because in our case the separation leads to considerable administrative hindrance also.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Shaikh Mohiuddin (Bihar): I strongly oppose this Resolution on the ground of the arguments offered by my hon. friend.

Shri Kamath: May I ask why the Home Minister is taking a rather long time in coming? It is strange. Has he been sent for?

Mr. Chairman: I understand he has been sent for.

Shri Kamath: Is he at home?

Mr. Chairman: Anyhow the Deputy Minister of Communications is in charge.

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I have taken down notes and shall pass them on to the Home Minister. Also, such replies as I am capable of, I will give.

Shri Kamath: That will be first hand, but this will be second-hand.

Shaikh Mohiuddin: My hon. friend's first point is that the eastern part of Purnea district consists of people who speak the same language as the people of North Bengal. I strongly oppose this suggestion because the people of Kishenganj and the eastern part of Purnea speak a language which is quite different from the Bengali language. It is nothing but a derivative form of Hindi and, so to say, these people have got their similarity to the people of North and South Purnea.

The second point is this. The manner, custom and behaviour—everything, including the culture—is alike that of the Hindustani-speaking people and not alike that of the Bengali-speaking people. Therefore the contention of my hon. friend that the people of the eastern part of Purnea alike the Bengali people is quite wrong. I would rather submit that the portion of West Malda district comprising the two thanas, that is, Harischandrapur and Kharba, and the two thanas Itahar and Raiganj of West Dinajpur district should be included in Bihar as the people of these places are just alike the people of Bihar in all respects. If that is done, communication and transport will be greatly facilitated. They are complaining about the bad communication and transport. West Bengal has nothing to do with these portions. The inclusion of these parts in Bihar will be greatly welcomed because it will not only facilitate better transport and communication but from the administrative point of view also it will be very desirable.

With these words, Madam, I strongly oppose the motion.

Shri B. Das (Orissa): Madam...

Shri Kamath: Was the hon. Member's name called?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, but the hon. Member is not very alert.

Shri Kamath: I did not hear you calling his name. That is why I asked.

Mr. Chairman: I have called his name.

Shri Kamath: Mentally or orally?

Mr. Chairman: The name was physically called out, but the hon. Member is somewhat absent-minded.

Shri Kamath: Very likely, Madam; I do not deny the possibility of that.

Shri B. Das: Madam, I congratulate my hon. friend Mr. Barman on the moderate language with which he has moved his Resolution. It is a very delicate subject. In the Constituent Assembly most of us were agitated over the issue of readjustment of boundaries and therefore in article 3 of the Constitution the Constituent Assembly has laid down what should be the future policy about the adjustment of boundaries. Whether the present moment was opportune for my friend Mr. B. K. Das or for Mr. Barman to raise the issue, he has raised it on the floor of the House and it is for the hon. the Home Minister to state the Government view-point.

But knowing the country as I do, I do not want any mock battle here over the readjustment of boundaries. My friend Professor Ranga is very anxious over the formation of his Province. He could have got his Province but there was a question of readjustment of the boundaries of Madras town, and that is why he missed the bus—and I hope he will get the bus some day. (*Interruption*). I know Bihar has stood in my way for the past twenty years in the matter of communication. And I do not want to pour oil over troubled waters. But communication is the primary duty of the Government of India and it is not a matter that rests on or is co-related to an adjustment of boundaries. It is the primary duty of the State to provide communications. Suffering as I did for twenty years—after the creation of Orissa Province it was in three bits and there was no direct communication—it is natural on everybody's part to have the communication controlled by the particular State, but I attempted it twenty years ago and failed. Now, the merging of the Orissa States have given me a composite State in Orissa.

At present the West Bengal Government and the leaders of Bengal that are present here on the floor of the House can insist on the Government of India to give them adequate relief. But the question is whether the time is opportune on the eve of our elections—the election is coming in January—for us here to have a mock battle on the floor of this House about the adjustment of boundaries, be it from Bihar or elsewhere. I wish to strongly protest against the statement of one Mr. Atulya Ghosh who was President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. I am glad he has resigned and left the Congress.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (West Bengal): No, no. He has only resigned his membership of the All India Congress Working Committee.

Shri B. Das: I am glad he continues. As President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee he had no business to demand that a particular portion of Orissa should be included in West Bengal. He is not alive to the fact that our Congress Government cannot carry out their responsibilities if Presidents of Provincial Congress Committees sound discordant notes in public places. There should not be such expression of opinion. My Government, our Government.....

Shri Kamath: Not 'my Government'. Only the President can say 'My Government'.

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member need any prompting?

Shri Kamath: Not prompting but clarification.

Shri B. Das: My Government and your Government, our Government. It is the Congress Government. We are all Congressmen. Madam, I appeal to the leaders present here to leave it to the Government of India, to our Government. Let them not raise any controversial point which may jar our fellowship and brotherhood in this House and outside.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): I am rather in a difficult position While I see the equity and justice of the demand of Bengal, I have the misfortune—or the good fortune—of coming from the Province which would have to bear the brunt of this adjustment.

The question before the Centre is not so restricted. While we, coming from different States look at it from the point of view of how it affects our own particular State, the Central Government and the party in power can have a wider outlook and see it in its proper perspective. Let us examine the position of Bengal. It was a mighty province with a big population and a long tradition of leadership and from that it has been reduced to such a position that it does not come in the first five provinces of India, as far as population is concerned. Bombay has increased its population enormously. Even Orissa the smallest State of the British days has now become a big State, because of the merger of the eastern States in the province. We on our side—I mean in the Province of Bihar have not benefited much, from the general pool of Indian States being merged with the existing provinces. We only received two, which, after all, came to us with great difficulty. We had good reasons for a part of Vindhya Pradesh to be merged to us but it was not accepted.

Shri Venkataraman (Madras): Madam, I wish to raise a point of order. I think that this resolution is out of order because under Article 3 of the Constitution the State Assembly has to pass this by a two-thirds majority in both the Houses and a resolution has to be passed in this Parliament.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): I do not think that it is right for an hon. Member to raise a point of order while another hon. Member is in the middle of his speech.

Mr. Chairman: I was just saying that the point of order could have been raised before this Resolution was moved.

Shri Sidhva: A point of order can be raised at any time.

Shri Hussain Imam: The point is that this is not assuming that this should be done. A step should be taken. That does not mean that a decision has been taken over the head of the constituent units but that the Centre has to take the initiative to bring its conciliatory efforts to reconcile both the parts. I was urging, Madam, that we had laid claims to certain parts of Vindhya Pradesh which were not only contiguous but more easily accessible from parts of Bihar. I further plead that for a long time past we have been feeling that parts of U.P. at least those districts which are permanently settled should be merged with Bihar. If the Centre is prepared to compensate Bihar adequately and completely, I believe, Bihar would not raise any objection to give something to the Province of Bengal who stand in so much need of readjustment of their frontiers and re-equipment of their shattered economy. I believe that it is in the best interests of all concerned that the Centre should behave in a manner, not of a partisan... but of an arbitrator.

Mr. Chairman: I find that papers and paper bits are falling from the Press Gallery and I hope that the Press representatives will take care to see that nothing is dropped on the heads of Members.

Shri Hussain Imam: I was suggesting that the function of the Centre is not to take sides. I want the Centre to behave in a manner which will give satisfaction to all units, that their interests are as well looked after as those of others. We had a contro-

[Shri Hussain Imam]

versy about Andhra Desh. We had a controversy about the Province of Maha Guzerat and Maha Maharashtra. All these things are hanging fire. The proposition that, "Has the Constitution provided a machinery for this," does not arise. (*Interruption*). I was suggesting that it will be in the interest and the contentment of the people of all Provinces and States that the Centre must behave in a more accommodating manner rather than stand on technical grounds such as that this thing should originate here and that this is dependent on that and other parties. What is the good of having a Government in power throughout India if it cannot bring about a policy of contentment to all the people concerned? No one would be so unjust as not to feel sympathy with Bengal in this demand for its adjustment of its frontiers. (*Interruption*). I am not concerned with individuals. What we are concerned is with the well-being and contentment of the people of India. You can only achieve it by rising above petty objections and petty subterfuges. If this thing is meant to be done, it should be done. The only question is whether the Central Government is prepared to shoulder the burden and bring about a readjustment of what had been done in the British days. We all know that the British carved out the provinces not on any historic foundations but to meet their exigencies of military situations. They conquered one country and then another place. We have not forgotten the days when the whole of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa formed part of one province. It is only in 1911, forty years ago that we separated and Orissa had separated from us only very recently, *i.e.*, in 1935. So there can be nothing sacrosanct about the present boundaries. These actions were not taken with the consent of the people of India but by foreign rulers. Please do not forget this. They did it not to meet the requirements of the peoples of India but according to their own convenience. I therefore, feel that it is time that the Central Government came out with a definite conciliatory policy and gave contentment to all the people of India who are labouring for different provinces.

Shri Sidhva: When my hon. friend, Mr. Venkataraman raised a point of order, I stated that an hon. Member has a right to move a point of order at any stage, but I did not get an answer from you...

Mr. Chairman: I perfectly agree that a point of order may be raised at any stage. What I stated was that it could have been raised even before this Resolution was moved, because that would have facilitated either the moving or not moving of the resolution but now it has been moved already and speeches had been delivered...

Shri Venkataraman: I am not pressing.

Mr. Chairman: I am just dealing with that also. The point of order raised by Mr. Venkataraman was that this Resolution is out of order because it goes against Article 3 of the Constitution of India but I do not think that the view taken by Mr. Venkataraman is correct, because this Resolution only suggests some course of action and that steps should be taken to bring about this. It does not straightaway deal with either altering the boundaries or the adjustment of the boundaries for which a definite procedure is laid down by Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitution. This Resolution simply states that steps should be taken to do that. Therefore, I do not think that this Resolution is out of order.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Madam Chairman, the question which has been raised on this Resolution is an important one affecting the future welfare of not only West Bengal but also of the whole of India. It raises questions of an All India importance as the last speaker rightly pointed out because similar demands for redistribution of boundaries of the Indian States have been made from various parts of India. I would plead that we should consider this matter as dispassionately as possible and try to come to some understanding which will be fair to all concerned and specially suited to the circumstances of the case. There is no doubt that West Bengal today is probably the smallest province in the whole of India. Why that has been so, it is not for me to discuss; the House is fully aware of the circumstances. The sacrifice made by West Bengal was for the freedom and advancement of India, as a whole. The density of population in West Bengal today is about 850 per square mile. That is the figure which has been given in the last Census report. It is not only the highest in the whole of India, but it is one of the highest in any part of the world. What to do with this problem? Obviously, if a demand is made that some portion of Bihar should be given to West Bengal, there is likely to be opposition from the people belonging to that province.

As the last speaker pointed out, this matter has to be decided by some third agency preferably on the initiative of the Government of India.

First of all, is there a case for the readjustment of boundaries of West Bengal? Let us not consider just now which part from which adjoining State should be tagged on to West Bengal. I do not want to attach complete importance to linguistic considerations. No doubt, that is one consideration. But, if we are to proceed to argue on that basis logically, then, perhaps, the demand will be irresistible that every Indian State must include persons speaking one language and one alone. We certainly would like to think in terms of one United India. I cannot conceive of any State within this great country of ours which will not include citizens speaking different languages. So, an over-emphasis on linguistic considerations might create conditions which may be worse than what were created on communal considerations in this country. Naturally, in a State, when people speaking different languages live, they are all citizens of one country, enjoying common rights, and each must have the feeling that he will have his rights properly protected and advanced in accordance with the terms of the Constitution. I am not suggesting that linguistic considerations are of no importance at all: let me not be misunderstood. An over-emphasis of this consideration alone will create difficulties which may ultimately disrupt India and which may go against our highest interests. I would therefore lay greater stress on administrative considerations, and also on geographical and strategic considerations.

Today, you have other States which have profited by reason of the merger of what are called the old Indian States. Almost every State has benefited by this re-arrangement. Administratively, some of these units are so large that perhaps it may become difficult to control their affairs properly and effectively. Here is one State within India, West Bengal, which today has lost nearly more than two-thirds of its previous territory, and the pressure of population on whose territory is continuously getting intenser and intenser. How is this problem going to be solved? Here, I would make a special appeal to those Members of Parliament who have come from Bihar, to place themselves in the position of those who come from West Bengal and like a brother to brother, I would ask everyone of them to give me a solution which will not make Bihar economically weaker and at the same time which will save West Bengal, which is after all, a part of the Indian Union.

Shri T. Husain (Bihar): Become part of Bihar; we will become one.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: My hon. friend has suggested, let West Bengal become part of Bihar or *vice versa*.

Shri T. Husain: Not at all.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: That is one proposal which I would not brush aside completely. I am prepared to consider that. Let the question of the possibility of a united province of Bihar-Bengal-Assam...

An Hon. Member: And Orissa.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:.....and Orissa if you like, be taken up; then the rest of India will run away from us and we will become the biggest possible State in the whole of India.

I was rather pained at the concluding remarks of my hon. friend Mr. Mohiuddin who brushed aside the resolution in a rather thoughtless manner. My hon. friend Mr. Upendranath Barman raised the question of making North Bengal and South Bengal contiguous. On account of the Radcliffe Award, as the House is aware, if one looks at the map of West Bengal, the head and the lower part of the province have been cut into two and the proposal of the hon. Mover is that some adjoining area from Bihar should be attached to West Bengal so that contiguity may be maintained. The answer which came from the hon. Member from Bihar was, if there is no contiguity now, why not tag North Bengal to Bihar and that would give contiguity. That, of course, is no solution. That is not the spirit in which one would like to look at this matter. My specific proposal would be that this whole matter should be investigated by some independent tribunal which the Government of India should appoint. It is not a matter which you can decide on the floor of the House. The matter has to be gone into and it should be done in a way which would secure the maximum possible agreement amongst the parties concerned.

The other day, the Prime Minister issued some statement on this very question. It affected, I believe, the demand from the South and it also related a few weeks ago to the demand from my own province. He said that the basic principle on which the Government of India would proceed was that there must be an agreement between the parties on the broad question of policy and until that was achieved, the Government of India was

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

not prepared to move in the matter. With all respect, I would submit that that is an entirely wrong approach to the problem. It is almost behaving like the old British Government in India which wanted that the Hindus and Muslims must agree before freedom could come to India. How can it be expected that the representatives of Bihar or any other province would come forward and say that some portion of their territory should be handed over to West Bengal? And who exactly will authoritatively agree on behalf of each State? That is not feasible. That is not in accordance with human nature. Even if there is such a general agreement, difficulties would arise with regard to implementation. So, some third party must intervene and that third party can only be the Government of India. If the Government of India feels that there is justice behind the claim of West Bengal, that you cannot leave one of your main frontier provinces in the condition in which it is today, and that in the interests of security, peace and prosperity, some readjustment of boundary has to be made, then, the initiative must be taken by the Government of India. An independent tribunal should be appointed. It should go round, meet the representatives of the people, and the respective Governments and try to come to some agreed formula. If no agreement could ultimately be reached, then, the tribunal should make a recommendation to the Government of India and the procedure which has been laid down in our Constitution should be followed. After all, what is the procedure which has been laid down? The procedure indicates that the legislature of each of the States concerned will have to be consulted. That is quite right. Let us do so. Subsequently, Parliament will have to decide the matter by special legislation. Therefore, the Constitution provides not a previous agreement amongst the contesting parties, but it provides that Parliament and Parliament alone will take the final responsibility for the readjustment of boundaries of the various States within Indian Union. That being so, why should the Government which is responsible to Parliament shirk this, or why should Government make it merely a question between Bengal and Bihar? It is an all-India question.

I would conclude by saying that there is great feeling on this matter. I am not referring merely to the agitation which is going on; but I am referring to the justice of Bengal's claim and also to the urgent need for doing something to solve this matter. It will not do, our following an ostrichlike policy with regard to not only this matter but also with regard to other matters of readjustment of the boundaries of the States within India. Once you take a decision on the matter, it is then that the people will settle down. But if the Government of India itself which is the central authority remains undecided, and if agitation continues, it might proceed along wrong channels. I would, therefore, urge with all the emphasis at my command that on a matter like this, the Government of India should announce its decision to have the question thoroughly gone into by an independent tribunal, and then to take effective steps for the purpose of redressing a grievous wrong and doing what is an obvious justice to West Bengal.

Prof. Ranga (Madras): I am in complete agreement with the conclusion that my hon. friend Dr. Mookerjee has just placed before the House. I was not able yesterday, to add my comment on the general proposition that the hon. Prime Minister placed before the House yesterday. But I shall take advantage of this opportunity to say that he was entirely wrong in saying that there should be an agreement among the parties before the Government of India could possibly take any effective step in the direction of the readjustment of the boundaries as between the different States that we have in this country. Madam Chairman, had that been the case, would it have been possible for Mr. Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi to come to an agreement that the whole of Lahore should go over to the other side and Amritsar should come over to this side, or between Lahore and Amritsar how much of the intervening area should come over to India and how much to Pakistan? Were they able to come to an agreement before they agreed to the appointment of a tribunal? Did they agree as to what portion or what boundary line should be drawn between Assam and Bengal before they agreed upon this tribunal? It is extraordinary that this particular proposition should be trotted out. It is for the Government of India to make a decision as to whether they want any reorganisation of these provinces or not. Here is the claim made by West Bengal. Do they or do they not think that there is some justice in the claim made by West Bengal? If they think there is, and the proper time has come, then it is for them to appoint a tribunal and it is the duty of that tribunal to go into this particular matter and say such and such villages should go to this State and such and such villages to the other. I can understand that it would be absurd for anyone or the

tribunal to suggest that half of a village should go to one Province and the other half to the other Province. But no such absurd thing would ever be recommended by any tribunal. And there would be no need too. And it is in this direction that the linguistic conception of the re-organisation of the provinces will come in handy. There are no villages where it is possible to say that the village belongs to both the languages. It either belongs to one language or to the other. Therefore it goes over to one Province or to the other. My hon. friend the Prime Minister yesterday maintained that even though there is substantial degree of agreement, it might not be possible for him to appoint a tribunal unless and until he was assured that he could place before them a prior agreement as between the parties concerned and all that he could expect the tribunal to do was to implement that particular agreement as regards the details. Now, that, I say, is a wrong approach to make with regard to this particular matter. It is just because there is no agreement with regard to certain details—not details whether this town or taluka or village—that the tribunal is brought into the picture. Even with regard to the city of Madras there was not so much of dispute. The only point was whether the city of Madras should be considered straightaway as belonging to Tamilnad or whether it should be considered a city in the residuary province that would be left out after the Andhra province comes to be carved out. On that point, it would be open for the Tribunal to say that Madras city may remain with the residuary province, that its future could be settled later on. Or.....

Shri Kamath: Or considered a free city.

Prof. Ranga: Its status could be settled in one way or the other. It is open to the tribunal to say that it should be a free city, as was suggested by the boundary commission for Bombay. So the tribunal can say now that the city may be left in the residuary province and the case examined on a later occasion and its future settled by another tribunal. Our task would be fulfilled by saying that it should not form part and parcel of the Andhra Province. Even with regard to that particular matter there was, I say, agreement, and yet the Prime Minister was not prepared to take courage in both hands, to take time by the forelock and come to a decision.

Madam Chairman, the real trouble is with the Government of India. There was Sardar Patel and if he had not behaved in the same vacillating manner, in the indecisive manner in which this Government has been behaving during the last two and a half or three years with regard to this question of linguistic provinces, I am sure linguistic provinces would have come into existence in this country and the reorganisation of our provinces would have been a *fait accompli* a long time back. It may be said by his distinguished successor the present Home Minister, "How is it then that the Sardar Sahib was not able to do it? It was because it was such a complicated matter." But maybe because he was too busy with the reorganising of the States and the integration of the whole of India. What has my hon. friend to claim to his credit after he has taken charge? Is he not big enough? Is he not great enough? Has he not sufficient statesmanship and sufficient organising capacity in him to take up this particular matter and settle it? After all with regard to several of these questions, so much spade work has already been done. Dr. S. P. Mookerjee said that the legislatures have got to agree according to the new Constitution.

Shri Rajagopalachari: May I know on what Resolution the hon. Member is speaking?

Shri Venkataraman: Andhra Province.

Prof. Ranga: I am speaking about the readjustment of boundaries of territories and incidentally Andhra province comes in, and just as the Government of India is fighting shy of the West Bengal problem, it is fighting shy of the other problem also. I wanted to draw the attention of the House that in all these areas so much spade-work has already been done. Partition committees were appointed and they made their reports. There were only very few points of difference of opinion. Therefore it is high time that the Government of India made up its mind. It is no good trying to take shelter by trotting out this wonder solution of theirs that there should be a previous common agreement. Now, between whom do they want this previous common agreement? Is it only between the provincial congress committees of the provinces of West Bengal, Bihar and also Orissa and even of Assam? Do they want previous common agreement between all the political parties that have come to function in these States? There might have been some excuse two years back if they had said that the provincial Congress committees should decide the matter. But now they cannot trot out this excuse, for more

[Prof. Ranga]

and more political parties are coming into existence and there will be many more before the elections are over, and after the elections, you will have people representing different political parties. Then how are you going to work for a previous common agreement? That will not be possible unless you make up your mind first to appoint a tribunal and get its report and place it before the legislatures of Bengal, Orissa and Assam, and Bihar too. The same would be the case in the South also. Once they make up their mind, they can come to a decision. The matter can come up before the Parliament and it would be possible for the Home Minister, if he were to continue to be the Home Minister in the next dispensation also, to implement a definite decision and help the people to have their provinces reorganised, so that India will have a better administrative set-up than she has been able to have at present.

Mr. Chairman: This kind of agreement as a condition precedent is contemplated by the section itself. That would facilitate the legislatures to come to a decision.

Prof. Ranga: Previous agreement between whom?

Mr. Chairman: Agreement of the respective legislatures for the boundaries of their respective provinces. Such a previous agreement was contemplated even by the section.

Prof. Ranga: That is only with regard to the legislature and not political parties.

Mr. Chairman: I thought that is perhaps the view of the Home Minister.

Shri T. Husain: I would not have risen today to make a speech, because I have been in bed for the last fortnight and even now I am weak but the reason I have got up to speak was because I felt ashamed when I was told that an hon. Member from Bihar said something against Bihar. I mean no other person than Mr. Hussain Imam. As a Bihari I felt ashamed, that a Bihari should speak against Bihar. I am an Indian and he is an Indian. I am in India but his family is in Pakistan and he is in India.....

Mr. Chairman: I do not think it is proper for one Member to say that he is ashamed of another Member. Such expression should be avoided as far as possible.

Shri T. Husain: I am sorry. If that is the observation of the Chair I will not go against that. But because I felt it that was why I got up to say something here.

I cannot understand why Bihar is going to be made a scapegoat. The condition of Bihar is already bad. After independence when the neighbouring states of Bihar were merged into India, those Eastern States were not given to Bihar. The Government of India did not play fair with Bihar. They should have given the entire Eastern States to Bihar. I see the Home Minister smiling at me. Even certain parts of Vindhya Pradesh, which were a part and parcel of Bihar, when the State became merged with India, those parts should have come to Bihar.

Shri Rajagopalachari: I have got two pamphlets on the subject.

Shri T. Husain: You may have the pamphlets and you may have the map but you have not given them to us. Now my friend Dr. Mookerjee is claiming that a portion of Bihar should be given to Bengal. I will have no objection with regard to those portions which are exclusively Bengalee-speaking areas, provided those Eastern States are given to Bihar. (*Dr. S. P. Mookerjee*: What about Gorakhpur?) Dr. Mookerjee has reminded me about Gorakhpur. That is a portion of U.P. which is permanently settled. There is the Banaras Division.....

An Hon. Member: You cannot get it.

Shri T. Husain: That Dr. Mookerjee says should go to Bihar. U.P. is quite big but we in Bihar do not want any portion of any other State to come to Bihar. We are satisfied as we are but if any part is taken away from us, those Eastern States which were a part and parcel of Bihar and which were taken away from us should be restored to us.

I cannot understand why Bengal is agitating for those parts. At the time of partition they knew very well that they were going to have a small State and they were satisfied with that. Even now the income *per capita* of Bengal is greater than that of Bihar. Apart from that there is the Damodar Valley project which is situated in Bihar exclusively for the benefit of Bengal and for that they should be thankful to us, instead of asking for more areas from Bihar.

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): This is a very delicate matter and personally I am not in favour of encouraging the claims for linguistic provinces. At the same time I know

the problem is important and it is no use the Government taking up an escapist attitude and avoiding the issue. The longer they delay, the more difficult the problem will become and it will add to their other difficulties and troubles.

This resolution naturally reminds me of the first partition of Bengal and its annulment. Some friend behind me reminds me that those days are gone. Yes all past days are gone. Even the yesterday has gone to-day but there is the sequence of events which no nation can avoid without paying heavily. When the first partition was annulled in December 1911 it was said that it was a provisional arrangement. I think I am quoting the words of the King's declaration and of the Secretary of State, namely that it was a provisional arrangement under which the boundaries between Bihar and Bengal were then announced. Within a few days after the annulment of the partition by the end of December, 1911, the Indian National Congress passed a resolution requesting the Government for a redistribution of the boundary between Bengal and Bihar. That resolution was not moved by any Bengalee. It was moved by no less a person than Dr. Sapru and it was supported by an eminent Bihari, Lala Parameshwari Lal. In the middle of January 1912 five eminent Bihari gentlemen issued a statement saying that certain territories included in Bihar after the annulment of partition were really Bengalee-speaking areas and should be given back to Bengal. One of the signatories was Dr. Sachidananda Sinha himself: others were Lala Parmeshwar Lal, Deep Narayan Singh, Faqruddin,—I am not quite sure about the name of the other gentleman. These five eminent men felt that injustice had been done to Bengal. We can find in the linguistic survey of Grierson that some of these territories were really Bengali-speaking areas. The census figures also will show that these territories were Bengali-speaking areas.

12 NOON

Even then, as I have said earlier, I am not in favour of encouraging linguistic states. I would not have raised this claim in this House on behalf of Bengal. India must develop the idea of a unitary State and of one nationhood: linguistic divisions should not stand in the way of the development of that one nationhood;—but sad experiences have taught us how languages have made discriminating differences between citizen and citizen. Therefore, I hope Government will take a realistic attitude in this matter. I can understand that Government may not be in a position just now to take up the question of wholesale redistribution of States, but as it has been envisaged in our Constitution, and as the Congress has been for so long propagating the idea of linguistic provinces, some day a boundary commission will have to be set up to look into this question. And at that time I would like that Government would not fail to discharge their obligations towards Bengal.

My hon. friend who just preceded me has told the House that while accepting the partition, Bengal knew that it would be a small State and that it accepted partition knowing that fact. But let me remind the House of one fact: if Bengal would have been obstructionist and if Bengal would have taken an obstinate attitude and refused to be divided, I think that gentleman would not have been here as the citizen of a free, independent India. Bengal took this vicarious suffering, accepted this partition, knowing full well what it would mean to her and knowing full well, at the same time, that the whole of India would share her troubles and sufferings and would come to her help. I do not like to remind the House about the part that Bengal has played in the evolution of India's freedom movement or in the creation of modern India and the idea of India's nationhood.

Apart from that, Bengal contains the great city of Calcutta, a City of about fifty lakh people. In this connection, I am reminded of the position of Vienna after World War I when it was the capital of only a small State. If it is not possible for a small State like Bengal to sustain the big City of Calcutta, and if as a result Calcutta goes down, it will be a loss not only for Bengal, it will be a grievous loss to the whole of India. Calcutta is not only a big industrial and commercial City, it is not only the biggest port in India, not only is it the biggest centre of our export trade, but it is also the gateway of India to the Eastern world. Politics have now shifted or are likely to shift from the Atlantic side to the Pacific side—if it has not shifted already it will not be long before the centre of politics shifts from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and then Calcutta will play a much more important role than she is playing now.

Another problem which has been particularly mentioned in this Resolution is the problem of connecting the two portions of West Bengal. We have now practically no communica-

[Shri A. C. Guha]

tion between the two parts. While delimiting the constituencies and making arrangements for the ensuing elections, I think the Election Commissioner would have been able to say what difficulties he had to face because of there being no contiguity between the two parts of West Bengal. Communication with Assam also is a great problem which has to be considered in this connection.

From all these points of view, from the point of view of the wrong that has been done at the time of the annulment of the first partition, from the point of view of the exigencies of the present circumstances, I would beg of this House and of the Government to pay serious consideration to this issue. It is not only from the point of view of language that I am making this claim. It is also from the point of view of administrative necessity. Bengal is a border State and has always been one of the problem provinces, perhaps the worst problem province, and I do not think the present Home Minister of the Government of India will say that Bengal has ceased to cause anxiety. I can understand the motive of the British Government in penalising Bengal in those days; I think every Member of this House of the earlier generation would agree that the first partition of Bengal was motivated from no other purpose than for punishing Bengal for sponsoring the idea of Indian independence and Indian nationhood. When the partition was annulled the British Government kept that purpose in view so that the partition was annulled in such a way that in Bengal the politically conscious Hindus could be kept in a minority. It was a political purpose they wanted to serve by the first partition and they wanted to serve a similar purpose in its annulment also. Again, it is not without any purpose that Calcutta was made practically the battleground for fighting Pakistan's battle. It was Calcutta which faced the Direct Action activities of the League and Bengal was particularly selected by the British Government to have a Muslim League Ministry by any means as also they tried in the Punjab. So, I would ask this House to take a dispassionate view of things. The motives which actuated the British Government should no longer operate. The House should also think of the contribution of Bengal to the development of Indian nationhood and the struggle for Indian independence. With these few words, I appeal to the Government and this House to consider this question dispassionately and from a longer and wider perspective.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar): When I first read the resolution and had the intimation that it had been ballotted, I gave the matter very close attention and ultimately came to the conclusion that my hon. friend Mr. Das had not chosen an opportune moment for bringing up the matter. I also felt that he had probably not studied the problem in all its details. I shall therefore try to throw on the subject such light as I am capable of doing.

This question of a portion of Bihar going to Bengal has been the subject of agitation for a long time and has found some expression.....

Mr. Chairman: Before the hon. Member proceeds, may I make it clear that hon. Members should keep to the time-limit of fifteen minutes?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: It will be difficult for me to do so. I shall try, but I have got several facts to place before the House.

Mr. Chairman: So also other hon. Members. We would like this resolution to be finished today and the hon. Minister has also made this position clear.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: As I said, this matter was agitated even when the Constituent Assembly was sitting and if I remember correctly, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (then the Minister of Industry and Supplies) and Shri K. C. Neogy (then the Minister of Commerce) submitted a memorandum to the President of the Constituent Assembly, to which a reply was sent by the Government of Bihar and a note was circulated and also submitted to the hon. the President by the late Dr. Sachidananda Sinha. Thus, it will be seen that this question of fixing up the boundaries between Bengal and Bihar or of allocation of territory between one province and another has been a matter of very old controversy. The resolution as drafted did not therefore indicate to me what really was intended and at what points in Bihar or in Assam or elsewhere...

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): Why bring in Assam? He has never mentioned Assam.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Assam and Bihar sail in the same boat in this matter, because a portion of West Bengal borders on Assam. Anyhow, the position really envisaged by the mover is, I find, in relation to a portion of Purnea going to West Bengal, if the boundaries were to be re-settled, in order to connect the portions of North Bengal, namely, Darjeeling and Jalpai-

guri etc. with other portions of West Bengal. Of course, my hon. friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee took the case to another plane—a much bigger and a more exhaustive and an all embracing plane, if I may say so. I suppose he still had fresh in his mind the memories of the memorandum that he had submitted. When Prof. Ranga seemed to subscribe to the views which had been placed by Dr. Mookerjee, I was reminded of the saying that "Adversity makes strange bedfellows."

Shri Sidhva: Strange buffaloes?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: The resolution had nothing to do with any Andhra province. It merely tried to place the point of view of the different parts of West Bengal.

Dr. Deshmukh: Mr. Sidhva heard it as buffaloes!

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: I hope my hon. friends will permit me to go on. Now, Madam, the difficulty which my hon. friend the mover did not envisage perhaps when he brought forward this resolution or moved it was that this portion, namely, Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, even though at present with West Bengal will have to come to Bihar in any redistribution on the basis of a just and fair settlement in consideration not merely of the size that a province must have but of the other considerations *viz.*, proximity, Linguistic, population etc. These districts at one time formed a part of the Bhagalpur Division of Bihar and perhaps my friends from Bengal may not be knowing that a long time ago, in the year 1862, when the Bhutanese wanted to invade Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, our Army had to be rushed and the Army that was rushed was not from Calcutta but from Dinapur and other parts of Bihar. If we look at the map, I think there will be no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri would in time to come have to be with Bihar. It is not that Bihar is claiming these two districts. Far be it from Bihar to do so, but if the mover has considered it from different aspects, whatever aspects may be kept in view—strategic, economic . . .

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: And capacity to digest?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Of course, I do not possess that digestive capacity as Dr. Mookerjee possesses. I do not deny that he has got much greater digestive capacity. The physical proportions alone would conclusively prove that.

Shri Kamath: Particularly for *rasagoollas.*

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Whatever aspect may be taken,—strategic, economic, or the laws that govern them, the present population, the constitution of the population and a comparison of the things on an economic level—it will be found that Bihar will be hard put to if it is asked to cede a part of its territory merely because you want to connect a portion of West Bengal with another portion of West Bengal. Once that proposition is accepted, I suppose Pakistan will be entitled to ask for a corridor from West Pakistan to East Pakistan. This question of corridor has vexed this world and brought misery and disaster to it more than once and I thought my hon. friend would be better advised not to raise that controversial issue now.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: So the relation between West Bengal and Bihar is like that between Pakistan and India?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: If that is the impression my friend has got, then I have not made myself clear to him. Nothing of the kind. Our relations are very very cordial and my reason for putting the thing very frankly is that I know you will not misunderstand me. If I had the slightest apprehension that the Bengalis will misunderstand the position of Bihar, I would not have mentioned it. I know you would have no misunderstanding as you know the position as much as I do myself. Actually speaking, the distance that separates this portion of Bengal, that is Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri with the other portion of Bengal is not a small distance. It is over a hundred miles to put it on a conservative estimate—it may be more. The whole of this portion borders Bihar on one side and the Pakistan territory on another. The House will pardon my saying this—the whole of this portion which will connect the two parts of Bengal consists largely of Muslim population—I may even go to the extent of saying entirely Muslim population and in spite of the best wishes of Dr. Mookerjee and his other friends, they will be hard put to, to keep this corridor safe, if ever there is trouble and it can be kept safe only by Bihar.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: It is a big question. This question has been raised not once, but on many occasions and on many occasions that question has been answered. Friends who have kept in touch with it, will have no difficulty in following it. After all this is a question of looking at the

[Shri Syamnandan Sahaya]

map. The entire area there is of Bihar and if one part of Bengal gets connected to another part by a thin corridor of 150 miles, it can well be imagined, as to which State will be in a better position to control it and safeguard it.

After all it is only a question of communication from one part of a province to another and this question of strategy and defence of a province ought not, in my opinion to be raised by a portion of the Union in the present context of things in India. That is the concern of the Centre. Can there be any objection to Bengalees on this side passing through the territory of Bihar to the other part of Bengal? I do not know how and why this feeling has arisen in the minds of some of my friends that unless one part of Bengal is connected with the other by portions of land belonging to the jurisdiction of Bengal, there will be difficulty. After all we are citizens of one Indian Union and there should be no difficulty in my opinion in finding passage.

Shri Sidhva: You give it up then.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: There is no question, as I said, of giving or taking. What you want is a passage in order to get to the other part of your province. To that extent you have our railways, you have our roads and I think the Government of Bihar and the people of Bihar will welcome Dr. Mookerjee and all his followers and band of workers to pass through the roads and railways of Bihar to go to the other part of Bengal. In fact, we shall give priority passage and priority passes to cover that.

This question of communication, as I said, will be clear from the fact that the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway which is the main rail route between these two districts starts from Kishanganj, a subdivisional headquarters of the District of Purnea in Bihar. A very fine metalled road—I refer to it because some friends have referred to the question of communications—connects Purnea with Darjeeling, while the newly constructed Assam link brings these two districts into contact. After all I am sure Bengalees will not say: "We shall not pass through roads made by Bihar." They will never do that, I hope.

Dr. M. M. Das (West Bengal): But you are preventing even vegetables being carried from one part of Bengal to another.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Now, Madam, as I said, there is a very old connection of these two districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri with Bihar. If we look into the different census figures and the reports in the gazetteers, it will be found that the population in the districts of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri is pre-eminently and predominantly Bihari and Hindi speaking. I do not have much time. Otherwise I would have taken the House through the figures.

Mr. Chairman: Two minutes.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: In two minutes nothing can be done. I shall rather not utilise them at all.

According to these figures it will be quite clear that so far as the population or language is concerned, these two districts are largely populated by Biharis and a section of Nepalese bordering on that portion of Nepal which is contiguous to North Bihar. Actually the District Gazetteer says that the population in the two districts were emigrants from Muzzafarpur, Darbhanga and Champaran and that portion of Nepal which is a kind of a common boundary between North Bihar and Nepal. And the language spoken is Hindi. These are not my statements. If my friends want to verify them I can give the facts and figures. If I had the time I would give them now.

Shri A. C. Guha: Would he also give the figures and facts about Manbhum and other districts?

Mr. Chairman: These questions and answers will only help the hon. Minister to make a case for previous consent.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: For the appointment of a Commission.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: If we are discussing about the boundary of West Bengal, Madam, you must give an opportunity to Assam.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: With regard to this distribution of areas on a cultural basis and on a linguistic basis as was pointed out by some friends here—I would not detain the House; in fact I have not got any time at my disposal—I would read out what Mahatmaji expressed in September 1944. Some press man asked him "Why not divide India on the basis of language and culture?" Mahatmaji immediately replied, "What is culture?" He went on: "It is impossible to define this. As for redistribution on a

cultural or linguistic basis, I do not know really what it means, and I am unable to understand how Provinces could be reconstituted on these lines. It seems to me to be fantastic and impossible. I do not see the slightest chance of such redistribution."

On this question of course both the Home Minister and the Prime Minister have made several statements, and one of them was made on the floor of this House even yesterday. I need not recapitulate it as the House is fully aware of it.

I will only touch one point. On this question of redistribution and taking a part of Bihar for Bengal there have been statements made by Dr. B. C. Roy, by Shri Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, by one Mr. Barua, by Shri Naresh Chandra Sen Gupta. All of them have made statements from time to time in which they have not encouraged, in fact discouraged, the tendency for redistribution of provincial boundaries. In any case what I would like now to state for a few minutes before I close my submissions is that even in the matter of the religious laws, these parts are not governed by what is most common in Bengal, namely the *Dayabhaga* system; they are governed by the *Mitakshara* system. I am saying this not on my authority but on the authority of High Court Judgments.

Mr. Chairman: Is it not going to be codified?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: When the Hindu Code comes into being of course everything will be all right. My only purpose in mentioning it is that as it is.....

Shri A. C. Guha: What about the system in Purulea?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: On that I shall have very much to say—for an hour and a half, if you like. You are speaking of Purulea, but I am talking here of Purnea. But so far as Purnea is concerned and these districts of Jalpaiguri they are not governed by *Dayabagha* but by the *Mitakshara* system. Of course, Madam, when we have passed the Hindu Code, we shall all be governed by one Code. What I am saying is this: Let us see what has been the cultural affinity, if I may use that term, between these parts and the Province of Bengal. I would like to say just a few words about the economic position.

Mr. Chairman: You have taken 20 minutes.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Much too short a time. I have many things to cover. Dr. Mookerjee has referred about the economic position.

Mr. Chairman: Does not the hon. Member wish to hear the views of the hon. Minister?

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: The hon. Minister will have everything to say and he shall have the final say. We shall if necessary sit till later hours to hear him. After all he is an apparatus of the Government and he cannot do anything on his own. He must hear the representatives from Bihar, Assam and Bengal. I was saying about the economic position. The total revenue of undivided Bengal with a population of about 60 millions was nearly Rs. 44 crores in 1945-46 while the total estimate of revenue of West Bengal with a population of about 20 million after partition during the financial year 1948-49 was over Rs. 31 crores. This clearly shows what the financial resources of West Bengal Government are in relation to the population which at one time it had when it was a united Bengal and before the partition much greater than those of undivided Bengal. The *per capita* expenditure in the undivided Bengal in 1945-46 was only Rs. 6-8 but after partition during the financial year 1948-49 the *per capita* expenditure was Rs. 14. Compared to this, let us see what is the position of Bihar. As I said the estimate of revenue income of West Bengal is Rs. 31 crores while that of Bihar is about Rs. 15 crores with a population almost double the population of West Bengal at present, *i.e.*, after the partition.

My hon. friend referred to the density of population in West Bengal. I admit that there has been a density of population there. It is as he said about 800 per square mile. In North Bihar,—he need not go to the whole of the world at all for this—we have been partners together for a long time. I am sure Dr. Mookerjee and friends from Bengal know about North Bihar also—there are districts where the density of population is over 1,000 per square mile.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: This is the average for the whole of Bengal. Some are more than 800 per square mile.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: There may be some places. What I am saying is that this density of population is not unique to West Bengal alone. There are such places in Bihar also. In fact, according to the population of Bihar, the share of the land per head is only about half an acre Then he said that there is also the refugee problem. The whole of India is sharing

[Shri Syamnandan Sahaya]

the adversity of the refugees and so far as Bihar is concerned it has not lagged behind. It has done its best and will do its best in future also. When the question of resettlement comes up I think Bihar will be very happy to give any assistance it can to West Benget and to East Punjab.

Pandit Maitra (West Bengal): When I came to the House today I had not the faintest idea that we will have to debate on a matter of such importance, and that it would take the unfortunate turn it has taken at the hands of the speaker who has just finished his speech.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: That has been the tragedy of Bihar by their association with Bengal.

Pandit Maitra: I do not know whether it is a tragedy or a comedy, future will show to us; not this House. I want my friends from Bihar to take note of this.

An Hon. Member: We are taking note.

Pandit Maitra: I am not talking in a manner that should rouse your passion, unless your minds are closed and you refuse to listen to reason.

Shri B. K. P. Sinha (Bihar): The facts are fixed; it is not a question of our minds.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. Members talk to each other, there may not be a necessity for the hon. Minister to reply.

Pandit Maitra: After all, what does this resolution stand for? The resolution is very limited in its content and application. All that this resolution seeks is that the Government of India should take early steps to alter the boundaries of the State of West Bengal with a view to establishing contiguity between the detached parts of the State. I shudder to think what turn the debate would have taken if the resolution was for incorporating into the territory of West Bengal Bengali speaking areas and allied matters. I want my friends to realise, and particularly, I would appeal to my friends from Bihar to place themselves in the position in which the people of West Bengal find themselves today. It is no use showing tons of lip sympathy as my hon. friend Mr. Syamnandan Sahaya has done just now saying "send refugees and we will show them hospitality and we will treat them as good dogs". We do not want that; that is not the point.

Shri M. P. Mishra (Bihar): What have the Punjabis done?

Pandit Maitra: I am coming to Punjab. Bengal and Punjab are the two provinces which, I believe most people would be prepared to agree, have paid in blood and tears, more than anybody else, the price for this freedom. Yet, if you look at the map of Bengal,—I am sure very few Members in this hon. House have carefully scrutinised the map of West Bengal as it is today after the Partition.

Shri Kamath: Question.

Pandit Maitra: You may question. The answer would be, you may have studied and you may be one of the very few. I never said nobody has scrutinised. I have not studied the map of Madras.

Shri M. P. Mishra: Did you not support the Partition of Bengal?

Pandit Maitra: It is no fault of mine. After all, human beings have their natural weaknesses. In the first instance, they take care of their own things, their own province, and things related thereto. The partition took place and we were faced with the peculiar phenomenon, a province, once one of the biggest provinces of India, by the devilish award of that gentleman Mr. Radcliffe—I wish that name were forgotten soon—became suddenly reduced to a size of 28,000 square miles, easily the smallest in area in the whole of India. And, even then, it had been cut up into three parts none of which had got connection with the other.

Now, my hon. friend talked about Punjab. I know the sufferings of the Punjab. Everybody knows and ought to sympathise with the sufferings of the Punjab.

Shri M. P. Mishra: Have they not settled all over India? Why can you not do that?

Pandit Maitra: My friend cannot go on interrupting like this. He will find that he fails in the end.

My hon. friends will see that in Punjab there is no question of lack of contiguity between one part and another. I respectfully ask, not challenge, any hon. Member in this House to point to any other province in India where within itself there is no contiguity and there is that kind of position in which West Bengal is placed today. The hon. the Home Minis-

ter will be replying to this debate. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member is not giving way.

Pandit Maitra: The hon. the Home Minister knows the condition of things in West Bengal very well. He was the Governor of that ill-fated province and he must be knowing what going to Darjeeling meant during that time. He must have seen and known things for himself. He will be the best judge to say whether the grievance that has been voiced in this simple Resolution is fancied or real, whether this is very vital to the very existence of the province of West Bengal or not.

Madam, I had to do some work in connection with the Delimitation of Constituencies Committee. We were faced with the peculiar problem of having to take the territory of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch-Behar altogether and make a special recommendation to the hon. the President of the Republic to have a three-member constituency in respect of this area for the simple reason that in between North Bengal and the districts of Malda and Dinajpore there is a tongue of Pakistan territory and electioneering would be impossible for anybody if the normal principle and procedure of delimitation had been followed in the case.

The question before us now is not the very large question of redistribution of Provinces. That large question will have to be tackled some day. (*Interruption*). I have no quarrel with my friends of Bihar. It is usual for them to oppose this kind of a proposition. It is perhaps natural for them to feel in this way. But let me tell them that we also have a feeling in this respect and this feeling must be respected and examined in the light of facts as they obtain to-day. And that can only be done by the Government of India, if it has a mind to do it. My hon. friend Shri Syamnandan Sahaya—he is not in his seat now, he has gone to receive congratulations from his friends of his province on his magnificient speech.....

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: No, I have only come nearer to listen to your speech.

Pandit Maitra: My friend said that the best solution would be for these two districts to go to Bihar! I have no quarrel. Take the whole of Bengal if you can do it to have a good riddance.

An Hon. Member: Yes, yes.

Pandit Maitra: But do not talk so glibly. Do not try to trample over the feelings of a highly sentimental people. They are down-trodden to-day. To-day we come to you in a prayerful mood. We come to you so that in the immediate context of things, this vital administrative problem of West Bengal may be solved. I had been chairman of the Foodgrains Investigation Committee and I and my colleagues know very well what sending of food from one place to another meant. We stand firm on the question of provincial autonomy, provincial autonomy, provincial autonomy in the face of inter-provincial barriers and restrictions. We do not yield to the Centre any ground when it is a question of threatened infringement of provincial autonomy. These are the facts. These fissiparous tendencies have been generated in us, thanks to the forces that prevailed before, and the forces that came later could not change the direction of things. Some day we will have to take it up. But regarding this present question of administrative difficulties, I want the hon. Home Minister to say straightaway what he is going to do. The point is, you cannot go on indefinitely shirking and burking this issue. Let us be frank about it. Whenever there is a demand for a redistribution of the provinces, you say it is not a good thing to do now. If it is only a case of change of a little boundary line here or there—to give direct connection to non-contiguous areas, you say the time is not opportune for that. If the time is not opportune you have to give us at least an assurance that you will for this purpose, set up a tribunal which enjoys the confidence of the people of Bihar, Bengal and the rest of India. I am not prepared to accept that it is a Bengal-Bihar problem. It is not so. I was surprised when an hon. Member said that the Damodar Valley Project was entirely meant for Bengal. If that is the type of narrow outlook which you bring to bear on the problems of India I do not know what the future of the country will be.

Madam, I do not want to take up more time of the House. I would make a final appeal to my friends. Let us not handle this question in a bellicose or cavalier fashion, not in a spirit of gaining victory over Bengal or Bihar, nor over Dr. Mookerjee, myself or Mr. Basanta Kumar Das. That will be a very short-lived victory. We have all fought together for the freedom of the country. We

[Pandit Maitra]

made no difference. Who is the man who will deny that at the hands of the British we have not suffered the utmost harassment, humiliation and persecution? That was followed by greater humiliation and worse tyranny under the heel of the Muslim League Government. My province had to bear the brunt of the last war with Assam. On top of these came the devastating famine which decimated a vast portion of our population. Then came partition and in its train an onrush of problems including those of refugee rehabilitation which baffled solution. When we come here we are told "You see how many problems we have to face here." But how many times greater and how much more baffling are the trials and difficulties of the provincial government of West Bengal, which have arisen owing to the province being mangled, mutilated and torn? I would therefore expect my friend the Home Minister not to give a diplomatic reply. In his position he ought to be able to tell us that this question will be looked into or investigated, in an impartial manner, not with a view to defeating the purpose of this resolution or supporting some other point of view. After a proper examination by an impartial tribunal the Government of India should place their decision before the Parliament. At that final hour I would appeal to every province in India to apply its mind, unbiased and unprejudiced to this question, for I refuse to believe that it is a question purely between Bengal and Bihar. It is an all India question which should be solved on an all-India basis.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad (Bihar): I beg to move that the question be put.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the idea that the debate should be continued on the next non-official day?

Several Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Chairman: Then I will put the question. The question is:

"That the question be put."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Rajagopalachari: The last speaker very properly pointed out that the resolution that has been moved was based on a very definite and, if I may say so, narrow ground but the debate has been broadened beyond all recognition.

Mr. Ranga who is not here referred to our departed leader and wished that he had been present to help his successor in adopting a more definite and clear policy on this matter. Not for that reason alone but for many other reasons I join with him in the wish that our departed leader had been present with us still but we cannot always have our wishes and we have to get on with the best material that we have. It was said that it was very wrong for the Prime Minister and for this Government to refer to an agreement being necessary before such an important issue could be tackled, and Mr. Ranga took the easy line of referring to the policy of the British Government that was in possession before us and said.....

Dr. Deshmukh: Dr. Mookerjee said that.

Shri Rajagopalachari: Did he too say that? Thank you, but that does not matter. It is easy and so anyone can take it up.

He said that the old British Government had placed the problem of difference and absence of agreement between us and independence, and therefore it is a wicked Machiavellian defence and should not be resorted to by us any longer. I hope friends will forgive me, Madam, when I say that this is a very fallacious way of arguing. It is true the British Government put forward many things, but all those things need not necessarily be wrong in principle because the British Government was wrong. The British Government believed in the mathematical tables; are we to throw them away because they employed them now and then? Therefore, the Machiavellian doctrine that you might divide your enemies if you wish to succeed is not an invention of the British. I think our own statesmen knew it also in our own times before any foreigner placed his foot in our country. But that does not mean that we are following that principle which is not British in origin. I can quote one of Sankaracharya's songs, if you so desire, to show that he knew it better.

Some Hon. Members: Yes, we would like to hear it.

Shri Rajagopalachari: To divide people was an old principle of action for all statesmen, and advised in our

best books also, but it does not mean that we are doing it now. Please do not call one thing by the name of another simply because there is some external resemblance. I need hardly say that men have a very strong resemblance to monkeys, yet they are very different from monkeys. Here the Prime Minister said, before you raise an issue of this kind let us have broad agreement, not in every detail, he was so careful to say; he was more careful than I would have been on the occasion. He was very careful to put in all the reservations when he asked for some agreement, and yet Mr. Ranga has taken the present occasion to widen the scope of the present Resolution and to attack that proposition.

Shri Kamath: What about that Sutra of Sankaracharya? We would like to hear it.

Shri Rajagopalachari: Sankaracharya advised men not to pursue that policy:

शत्रौ मित्रे पुत्रे बन्धौ
मा कुरु यत्नम् विग्रह सँन्धौ

That was his advice. He advised people not to indulge in it because he said, "Think of God, do not try to follow these policies." But Sankaracharya had to face that policy. He knew even in his time that there was this policy to follow. But it was only to please Mr. Kamath that I have wasted the time of the House to this extent.

We should not mistake this for that. If the leaders of our people today, if those who have taken the responsibility of the Government of the country today, ask you not to raise a very thorny issue at this moment and ask you also to come with some degree of agreement before you raise such a proposition so that the thorns may not be too difficult to handle, is it then the same as that policy of the British or of any of the Machiavellian statesmen of divide and rule? It is not that. It is an appeal to the people not to make a crisis or a problem more difficult than it need be. You could proceed to remove those differences and face the Prime Minister rather than throw the proposition at him that he was only following the policy of the British people. It is an external resemblance as the monkey is to the man, but there is all the difference in the world in spite of that external resemblance.

It was pointed out that the present procedure was contrary to what is prescribed in the Constitution. I knew the weaknesses in Mr. Venkataraman's point of order and did not wish him to proceed, but it was proceeded with in some way and it was answered, namely, that the resolution is a step towards taking action and what the Constitution bars is only the final action. It lays down certain provisos. Therefore it is argued, we are building up a case in order that the constitutional provisions may be followed later on. But I want to go into the principles of the constitutional procedure. I do not want to do it in a legalistic way but let us see why the Constitution lays it down like that. It lays down that there should be as much agreement as possible before we can proceed with a matter of that kind. It is open to us to get round any constitutional provision or any point of order. It is quite easy for us clever people to get round anything. You can get a resolution tabled which will cover the ground without calling it a Bill and you can get round the constitutional provision so to say. But see what has resulted. The very evil which the constitutional provision provided against has come into play before our eyes now—Bihar, Bengal, Assam, Madras and every kind of difference of opinion has been expressed and some of the speeches have risen to very high levels of eloquence. While eloquence is good, it is apt to excite sentiment and feeling and in a matter of this kind and at a juncture like the present it is not good to indulge in it. It is better sometimes to forget facts than that we should be continually remembering them. There is a very valuable and most precious inheritance in man's mind—the capacity to forget. We think that the capacity to remember is more valuable than the capacity to forget and we make mistakes. The capacity to forget is that which leads to happiness; the capacity to remember is that which leads to unhappiness. Let me once and for all put it in absolute terms. The man who forgets is a man to be envied; the man who remembers is not a man to be envied. (*An Hon. Member*: Not always.)

Shri Kamath: Does not the Gita say:

"मत्तः स्मृतिर्ज्ञानमपोहनं च" ?

Shri Rajagopalachari: But there it is not mere memory; anyway, we need not go into it very much more at present. Let me be understood in the sense in which I put it. It is better to forget some of the things rather

[Shri Rajagopalachari]

than continually remind ourselves of them. Unfortunately, we have got into a notion that these territorial divisions of our States are something analogous to property, which is wrong. Let me venture to put it quite frankly that although we shout high for the abolition of zamindaris and for the levelling down of property distinctions and all that, our sense of property is unfortunately still very strong and very alive. We seem to imagine that these territorial divisions of our States are so to say so much property and we like to talk as if we lose something or we gain something. What really is the matter here? The matter is one of communications; of facility of administration; of effectiveness of government and the like. Is it to be mixed up with a question as to how much square foot of land Bengal has to a man; how much population she has to the square mile and how much Bihar has? We cannot solve Indian problems in that way now. Those who preceded us and who were unwilling to give us our freedom used to threaten and make evil prognostications as to how we would go to pieces once the British left the country. Some of them said that the 500 and odd Indian States would go to pieces. We have falsified that prognostication. Some others said that the Afghans will be down upon us and there will not be a virgin left in Indian soil after the British went away. That prognostication also has been falsified. War has not come down upon us because the British went away and the Afghans are not our enemies at all as was prognosticated. But just now there is another fear, another threat, if I may call it, which is hanging in the horizon—I refer to linguistic division. We may exaggerate the desire to think of each language as a separate entity. Let me at once say that I am not ignorant though fairly detached in this matter. I am living in the midst of a linguistic trouble and I know a few languages. I am not a single language man. I know quite a number of languages in my part of the country. I know the degree and growth and the etymology and the etiology of language divisions. What is this that we are fighting about?

Shri Munavalli (Bombay): Why did the Congress divide provinces on a linguistic basis?

Shri Rajagopalachari: We cannot always be consistent. It is a hobgoblin of a certain class of people. Let us be rational first and consistent afterwards. We have to live from moment to moment and do the right thing at the moment and not be swayed away by what was said. (*Interruption.*) Let me ask for patience. I may be wrong. There is still plenty of time to think about it and I have given you a free charter. I myself may change, as I have said just now.

1 P.M.

So far as this language controversy goes, when two different people speaking different languages come to a certain area by occupation, force, fraud or otherwise, then the division is very strictly maintained for a long time. Even, that is broken down some times. The languages in India have not grown in that way. Our languages, those which the people in the north of India speak, have grown from a common stock and they have gradually changed from area to area, from village to village, from district to district and certainly from State to State. Even single language states do not speak a homogenous language, as is very often imagined. But so long as the language was seated in the tongues of people and heard in the ears of people, these changes were absolutely necessary and could not be escaped. For instance, one village pronounces the vowel 'aw' in one way and the neighbouring village in a different way. It went on like that and it became a different dialect. You call them different languages. To the ear of a Tamilian like me all your languages are one and indivisible. But among yourselves you call them different languages and want to divide the country, divide the territorial area of the motherland by that single standard. It is very difficult.

At page 73 of a memorandum prepared by the President who inaugurated the Constituent Assembly the late lamented Sachchidananda Sinha, he has dealt with the various dialects prevailing in the Purnea area of Bihar and in the neighbouring area of West Bengal and other areas. Now they are all natural grown differences. They are not different races coming together and fighting with one another. It is the same language developed by word of mouth and by the sound of the ear through centuries, through thousands of years, not hundreds, and there they are. But that need not confuse us into thinking that we are different people and that we must have different politics for different languages. Politics must be essentially based on present day affairs and not on grammar and etymology. We must base divisions of administration on present-day requirements of administration and of life.

I do not oppose the linguistic proposal. About fifteen years ago, I myself sent up a recommendation to the Secretary of State who was then in charge of India that the Andhra Province should be separated and that the sooner it was done the better. But I have seen enough now. This is made too much of; particularly at the present juncture it should not be even referred to. Language borders are not so clear as people imagine. The moment you draw a line in a map before you with a pencil in hand, that moment you create a problem for everyone of the children living on either side of the border. A number of them speak the language of the other side of the border and you have to create new school masters, and new schools for them. I have seen it wherever the line was drawn. I have seen it in active operation in Orissa; I have seen it in active operation between Andhra and Tamil. Difficulties will continue to remain wherever you draw the line. In the case of Bombay, can you draw a line where Gujerati ends and where Marathi begins—it is impossible. And you will have to provide for numerous things.

Dr. Deshmukh: Wherever you draw the line in Bombay it is all Marathi.

Shri Rajagopalachari: Very probably! Let me turn to that proposition. Even in Matunga or Dadar, if I want to open a school for Tamilian pupils it creates a problem there for the children are mixed up there. It is difficult in modern times, when men have to pay attention to their stomachs more than anything else, for any people to remain within particular language areas. You may draw language areas for the Ministers and Parliament Members but the common folk have to travel across to earn their bread and eke out their living.

In fact I know very well the condition of Bengal. Bengal is in a very bad way in many ways, especially because the entire population there looks to Calcutta as its home. In fact I may say that the whole of Bengal migrates into Calcutta, and the whole of Bihar wants to migrate into Bengal! This is the real psychological position there, and there are many problems we have to solve. But I do not wish to make the same mistake as has been made by other speakers of making the proposition wider intead of making it more specific. We should not do things so as to bring in this feeling too strongly into people's minds.

In this connection may I read out from one of these booklets which I obtained in order to get some facts over this Resolution? This booklet is called "Facts about Manbhum" written from the Bihar point of view in 1948. I am not referring to the arguments there. But look at the facts disclosed there. On account of the feelings that were roused, one paper in Calcutta wrote in 1948:

> "...the Biharis have organised squads on the lines of Hitler's storm troopers and Muslim National Guards of prepartitioned India. They are inciting the Santals in these areas where about 50,000 of such Santals are said to be fully mobilised for immediate action."

Another paper wrote:

> "Has that class which gladly accepted the gallows to assert its claim become extinct? Why are not all the sons of Bengal combining to push on their cause? Under the very eyes of the Bengalis, Seraikella and Kharsawan have been snatched away. Still the Bengalees are quiet. Why such a lull? To assert the claim of Bengal, we must raise a great agitation. Let the successors of Khudi Ram and Surya Sen rise up....."

This is the sort of thing that will go on if we do not check ourselves. It is a most dangerous thing. This is not the time when we should raise points which would naturally and instinctively lead people to this kind of thought. It is not wise. We are today facing many problems, external as well as internal. Let us not raise propositions of this kind before the people. Even if we raise them let us fix them not on grounds which will mislead people into wrong sentiments—misleading sentiments even if true. Let us, as the hon. mover of the Resolution did, place it on a very definite simple ground. Here is a Province which is divided into two unconnected parts. Here is a southern part of West Bengal Province, and here is Darjeeling in the north, and in-between there is no connection, and let us have some connection. That was the proposition. It is not a corridor problem as was eloquently and graphically put, bringing before us all the pictures of the corridor problems of Germany and of Poland. It is a totally different thing. They want an administrative improvement in the matter of communications. It is really a question of communications and of bringing about a state of things whereby our general-defence position and our administrative position may be improved. This is the real and legitimate aspect in which we should understand this Resolution. And from that point of view I must on behalf of Government be ready to tell the House that the Government will have to consider this, and

[Shri Rajagopalachari]

must consider it very seriously and do all that is in their power. Let there be no mistake. It is not a Bengal problem. Nor is it a Darjeeling problem. It is an Indian problem. The idea that Bihar is foreign territory and that Bengal has been divided into two parts without any connection whatsoever between them is a little exaggerated. After all Bihar is our own and no passports are necessary for the Bengal people to go to Bihar. There is no visa necessary for people from the other side to come into Bengal. Trains are not examined for Biharis or for Bengalees when they move and the buses are not examined. The territory is ours and it was on this ground that the objection raised by Bengal to the original idea of partition was met that Bihar should not be looked upon as a foreign territory and therefore the communication was intact. But it can be argued that the communication is not efficient. Although there are highways, railways, rivers, bridges and ferries across, they are not sufficiently efficient and I think that it is the duty of the Government of India to consider this very seriously and indeed, if necessary to take over the responsibility of this communication between North and South Bengal as one of its responsibilities, instead of giving money and watching its expenditure. In fact Government will probably come to the conclusion that this is an All-India national affair and it must be taken in hand but if we move in another direction and look upon Bihar as a stranger territory or Bengal as a stranger territory it would not be the right thing to do. The hon. Minister for Rehabilitation sat with me for a few minutes and explained to me his own difficulties. He said that this sort of talk makes his work difficult. It is with great difficulty he said that he induced some of the Bengalee refugees and evacuees to be taken over to the Bihar area and their feelings are always affected by this agitation. Both sides keep thinking about these things. Each looks upon the other as a source of future danger. These things are bad. We ought not to lift an administrative problem to the level of a sentimental or an anti-language or an anti-nationality problem. We will have to treat it on its own merits as an administrative problem. I have done. I do not think I need ask the House to stay beyond the legitimate period but I hope that the hon. Member will not press this motion.

Shri Barman: I would like to say one or two things...

Mr. Chairman: Is any reply necessary? The hon. Member has the right to say anything. Nobody is saying that.

Shri Barman: I wish to touch on one or two points.

Mr. Chairman: All right. If the House is willing to sit, I have no objection to allow the hon. Member to have his right to say.

Shri Barman: I would like to touch on two things which have been stated by my hon. friend, Mr. Sahaya.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I say that the debate should be carried over to the next day.

Shri Rajagopalachari: The hon. Member may take the time of the House, but it is quite unnecessary.

Mr. Chairman: I shall put it to the House whether we close the debate now or not or whether the House is willing to sit for 5 minutes more.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may just finish and then we will close the discussion. What time does he want to take?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: It may be possible for the mover to withdraw this resolution.

Mr. Chairman: You want it to be carried over to another day for the mover to make his reply?

Shri Barman: I just wanted to say that I am advised by the hon. Home Minister not to reply to any of my friends and I abide by his advice. I shall only say that recently some difficulties have been created by the Administration of Bihar as regards the supply of certain things to the northern part and that is why I mention that this difficulty of communication which has been made more complicated by another province. Had there been contiguity this sort of position should not at all have arisen. Anyhow, I do not like to mention all these matters here. After all these things we can settle among ourselves. I think my purpose was to inform the Government and after having done that, I ask leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

Mr. Chairman: May I know if the hon. Member has the leave of the House to withdraw his motion?

Shri Hussain Imam: No.

Shri Kamath: The rule is that even if one member objects, it has to be put to the vote of the House.

Mr. Chairman: I will follow the rule. The question is:

"This House is of opinion that early steps should be taken to alter the boundaries of the State of West Bengal with a view to establishing contiguity between the detached parts of the State."

The motion was negatived.

The House then adjourned till Half Past Eight of the Clock on Saturday, the 25th August, 1951.